

U.N. mediator Lakhdar Brahimi has his eyes closed during a press briefing at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014. Syrians on opposite sides of their country’s civil war tried again Sunday to find common ground, with peace talks focusing on an aid convoy to a besieged city that once more came under mortar attack from the government.

(AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

Syria Talks Yield Narrow Deal, Assad ‘Red Line’

ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press
GENEVA (AP) — Two days of face-to-face peace talks yielded a narrow

and tentative agreement Sunday for women and children trapped in a besieged Syrian city, and the government said President

Bashar Assad had no intention of giving up “the keys to Damascus.” With little progress to show after months of internation-

al pressure for the conference in Geneva, the U.N. mediator hoping to broker an end to Syria’s civil war defended their pace.

“I think being too slow is a better way than going too fast,” Lakhdar Brahimi said.

Continued on page 3



FROZEN BIG APPLE ON THE MENU FOR SUPER BOWL FANS

Page 4



KILLED PROTESTER MOURNED IN KIEV AS CRISIS BREWS

Page 8

In Davos, nations vow to extend global trade deal

JOHN HEILPRIN
Associated Press

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)

— Trade ministers from many of the world's biggest economies pledged to broaden a deal to boost global trade this weekend, with the U.S. saying nothing is off-limits for discussion.

At a Swiss-hosted meeting on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum, ministers from China, the European Union, Japan, the U.S. and 15 other nations agreed to build on the "positive momentum" of a World Trade Organization summit last December in Bali where the organization's 159 member economies agreed to cut customs red tape.

The ministers agreed to address the most difficult remaining negotiating topics of agriculture, market access and services that eluded an agreement last month in the first WTO deal since the global trade body was formed in 1995, said Swiss Economics Minister Johann Schneider-Ammann, who hosted the meeting.

He said the world economic powers agreed to "promptly" build on the Bali agreement with "a particular focus on issues important to least developing countries."

"In order to be able to successfully tackle these topics, fresh and credible approaches will be needed," the Swiss minister said.

WTO Director-General Robert Azevedo said negotiating process must be trans-

parent and inclusive, so every member can have a voice and participate, but that "the do-ability test is very important" in working toward an expanded free-trade deal that balances "ambition and realism."

The Bali deal could boost global trade by \$1 trillion over time, and its centerpiece was an agreement

ing changes in regulations, taxes and subsidies that would benefit low income countries.

And the deal boosted the Geneva-based WTO's credibility and relevance as a forum for governments to negotiate trade agreements and not just as a trade court for international disputes.

open-minded and we are willing to consider a discussion on any of the outstanding issues." Japanese Economics Minister Toshimitsu Metegi said the weekend's discussion focused on "how to go forward with the WTO" while also implementing the red tape-cutting provisions previously agreed to in Bali. Japan, he



A demonstrator walks in the street with painted face during a protest against the Davos World Economic Forum, WEF, in Davos, Switzerland.

(AP Photo/Jean-Christophe Boff)

on measures to ease barriers to trade by simplifying customs procedures and making them more transparent.

But it also kept alive hopes of eventually accomplishing the WTO's broader Doha Round of trade negotiations, sometimes known as the development round because of sweep-

U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman told ministers Saturday that "the WTO's first order of business must be to finish what we started," according to a statement from his office.

"It also means agreeing to a work plan as we seek to identify future opportunities for progress," he told them. "The United States is

told reporters, has shown "a considerable amount of flexibility" during the trade talks and hopes the U.S. will be similarly flexible at the negotiating table.

The world's biggest powers in trade have also vowed to craft a global deal on free trade in environmental goods to help fight global warming.

5.8 quake hits Greek island; minor injuries

DEMETRIS NELLAS
Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP)

A strong earthquake with a preliminary 5.8-magnitude hit the Greek island of Kefalonia on Sunday, with local media reporting minor injuries to some residents and damage to buildings and roads.

The temblor's epicenter was about 280 kilometers (175 miles) west of Athens, near the town of Lixouri on the island, and its depth was 17 kilometers (11 miles), the Athens Geodynamic Institute said.

A local news website, kefaloniapress.gr, reported some damage on roads and buildings in the towns of Lixouri and Argostoli, the island's largest. There have been some slight injuries from falls, and falling objects inside apartments. Local media reported several rock falls as well as damage to the local airport's control tower.

One of the injured inhabitants, Kleon Moros, said that many of the local hospital's windows had been damaged and, as a result, patients needing X-rays had

to be moved to another building.

"It is too early to say if this is the main earthquake, although it likely is," Manolis Skordilis, an associate professor of geophysics at the University of Thessaloniki, told The Associated Press.

"This area shows the highest incidence of seismic phenomena, not only in Greece, but on an east-west axis stretching from Gibraltar to China. In 1983, there was a 7 magnitude quake in the same area ... We have already had many aftershocks and ex-

pect many more."

In the first three hours following the earthquake, there have been 12 aftershocks with a magnitude over 3. The strongest was 4.5.

Costas Papazahos, a seismology professor at the same university, said the 5.8 was a preliminary reading, adding that he expects the final figure to be between 6 and 6.2.

Such earthquakes are not rare in Greece. Kefalonia and the nearby island of Zakynthos were devastated by a 7.2-strong quake in 1953.

US health officials probe illnesses on Caribbean cruise

DAVID McFADDEN
Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— U.S. health officials will board a cruise ship docked in the U.S. Virgin Islands to investigate an illness outbreak that has stricken at least 300 people with gastrointestinal symptoms including vomiting and diarrhea, a cruise company spokeswoman said Sunday.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said that 281, or nearly 10 percent, of the 3,050 passengers aboard Royal Caribbean International's Explorer of the Seas have reported getting sick. Twenty-two 22 crew members also reported feeling ill. In a Sunday morning statement, company spokeswoman Janet Diaz said CDC officials are expected to soon board the towering, 15-deck ship making a port call in St. Thomas, the main island of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

At least two CDC officials - an epidemiologist and an environmental health officer - are expected to do an investigation and evaluate the outbreak response on the cruise liner. The U.S. health agency did not immediately respond to a Sunday email and a call seeking comment about the work aboard the ship.

During the previous port call in Puerto Rico, the ship underwent "extensive and thorough sanitizing" to help prevent more people from getting sick, said the spokeswoman. It bypassed a scheduled stop to the company's fenced-in beach destination in northern Haiti to sail directly to Puerto Rico's capital.

"This was a difficult decision to make; however, we feel it is best to make this itinerary modification to help prevent any more guests from becoming ill," Diaz said.

Meanwhile, the passengers and crew who fell ill have "responded well to over-the-counter medication being administered onboard the ship," she said.

Syria talks yield narrow deal, Assad 'red line'

Continued from Front

"If you run, you may gain one hour and lose one week."

The limited agreement to let women and children leave a blockaded part of the old city of Homs, under negotiation for at least two days, fell far short of expectations and was called into question by multiple reports of government shelling. The talks have yet to touch upon the issue of a possible transitional government — their purpose according to terms laid out when they were first conceived. But the government was unequivocal that Assad's future was assured in the country led by his family since 1970.

"This is a red line. If some people think we are coming here to give them the keys of Damascus they are wrong," said Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal al-Mikdad, echoing the language U.S. President Barack Obama used to describe a chemical weapons attack in Syria. In Syria, the war continued as if there were no effort to stop it — gunfire and shelling in Homs, between Assad's forces and rebels, and between the al-Qaida-linked militants and Kurdish fighters, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The blockaded districts of Homs came under intense fire that activists blamed on the government, calling into question how any deals reached in remote Switzerland could be implemented or verified in a chaotic civil war with dozens of players that began as a largely peaceful uprising against Assad. More than 130,000 people have died in less than three years, and millions of Syrians have fled their homes. Brahimi acknowledged that the agreement for Homs fell short of his hope to send a humanitarian aid convoy to the city. But, he said, "to bring Syria out of the ditch in which it has

fallen will take time."

There have been a number of short-lived, local truces reached between opposition-held towns and government forces in recent months that, including in Moadamiyeh, a sprawling rebel-held community west of Damascus, where about 5,000 residents were allowed to evacuate in the fall. Monzer Akbik, an opposition spokesman, said the coalition was still determined to stay for the political talks set to begin Monday despite accusing the government of stalling. "They were sidestepping some issues and saying they want to refer back to Damascus for answers. It is clear to us that the regime delegation is not in charge of its own decisions," Akbik said.

Both sides claim to represent the Syrian people. The Western-backed opposition, made up largely of exiled Syrians, says Assad has lost legitimacy and can no longer lead a country after unleashing the military on largely peaceful protests nearly three years ago. They say Assad is being propped up by aid, weapons and fighters from Iran and Russia.

The government says the rebellion is rife with terrorists and that Assad is the only person able to end the fighting, blaming the West and Gulf states — especially Saudi Arabia — of turning the country into an al-Qaida haven.

Homs was considered a promising place to start the negotiations.

The city was one of the first areas that plunged into armed conflict in 2011. Neighborhoods in the old city have been ravaged and emptied of residents following repeated government assaults to reclaim control from rebels. Activists say about 800 families are trapped, without regular access to food, medicine and basic necessities. "The regime is blocking all convoys to Homs and has been doing so for months," a senior U.S. official said on condition of anonymity because the talks remain



Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Makdad reacts to a question during a press briefing at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014. Syrians on opposite sides of their country's civil war tried again Sunday to find common ground, with peace talks focusing on an aid convoy to a besieged city that once more came under mortar attack from the government.

(AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

sensitive. "The situation in Homs is extremely urgent. Anything the government says to the contrary is false."

Syrian activists, including the Observatory, said some rebel-held districts in Homs came under attack Sunday morning by mortar shells fired by government forces. The two sides failed to reach agreement on a prisoner exchange, as Brahimi had hoped. Al-Mikdad said a list of names submitted by the opposition was greatly exaggerated, adding the government had no children in its jails, while the opposition said it had no control over the militants who have kidnapped hundreds of people, including aid workers and journalists. □

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Frozen Big Apple on menu for Broncos, Seahawks

BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer
JERSEY CITY, New Jersey (AP)

— An icy wind made its way through the Meadowlands, cut across the Hudson River and into frigid Manhattan. Looks like Mother Nature is taking seriously the NFL's slogan for the upcoming Super Bowl: Best Served Cold.

One week before kickoff, on the day the Broncos and Seahawks are arriving in the

frozen Big Apple, Sunday brought a bit of a thaw. Temperatures actually reached the low 20s.

Hardly balmy.

Not that the guys who will take the field at MetLife Stadium have any complaints or concerns. They'd play this one on the New Jersey tundra or in Death Valley.

"Absolutely," Denver linebacker Wesley Woodyard said. "We've been talking about

that, our leadership group, that's something that's key for everybody. Enjoy the moment of New York, be there, enjoy the Super Bowl, but we are there for a purpose, and that's winning a football game. I think everybody understands that."

What they also understand is that the upcoming week is unlike anything else they experienced during the season. Or during any season.



An NYPD officer patrols with a dog, Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014 in New York's Times Square. A dozen blocks of Broadway, in the heart of Manhattan, will close to traffic for four days so the NFL can host a Super Bowl festival. The championship football game between the Denver Broncos and Seattle Seahawks is Sunday, Feb. 3 in East Rutherford, N.J.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

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More media, for sure. A glaring spotlight on everything. Spending a week away from home. Practicing in another team's facility: the Seahawks at the Giants' complex across the parking lots from MetLife Stadium, the Broncos at the Jets' place in Florham Park, about 30 minutes from the Meadowlands.

"I mean obviously it's the biggest game that we've ever played in," Seahawks receiver Doug Baldwin said. "It's one of the games that we've been dreaming about playing in it since we were 6 years old on little league fields. The distraction of the hype that surrounds it, it's definitely real."

"But, that distraction is something that we have to try and eliminate. It's going to be difficult. But in order for us execute as well as we want to, we have to eliminate that distraction."

Not one Seahawks player has been this far, giving Denver something of an edge in experience. The Broncos have four: receiver Wes Welker, tight end Jacob Tamme, cornerback Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie and some quarterback named Peyton.

Manning, of course, is the only current Bronco to have won a ring, with Indianapolis in 2007. He also lost the Super Bowl in 2010 with the Colts.

"I think the biggest thing he's said is eliminate distractions, making sure you're taking care of the little details, doing extra, watching film, working out, getting your body right," receiver Eric Decker said.

"And then I think the biggest thing is he says he's won one, he's lost one. And it's a complete high; it's a complete low. So, really understand to give everything you've got because this is the last game of the year."

And it's the first Super Bowl ever played outdoors in a cold-weather city. There's snow on the ground, frost in the air, and plenty of forecasts for what might be ahead next Sunday.

The only truly accurate forecast, though, was delivered by Seahawks All-Pro safety Earl Thomas.

"I don't care where we play," he said. "I know when we play, all the feelings and the stuff I need to get ready and prepare. It'll be there." □

Family: Brain-dead Texas woman off life support

NOMAAN MERCHANT

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) —

The family of a brain-dead, pregnant Texas woman said Sunday afternoon that she has been removed from life support following a judge's ruling that a Fort Worth hospital was misapplying state law in the case. A statement sent Sunday afternoon by lawyers for the husband of Marlise Munoz said she was disconnected from life support about 11:30 a.m. CST (1730 GMT).

It said her body was released to her husband, Erick Munoz, and that the family is now looking to lay her body to rest.

The family "will now proceed with the somber task of laying Marlise Munoz's body to rest, and grieving over the great loss that has been suffered," the statement said.

The case has raised questions about end-of-life care and whether a pregnant

woman who is considered legally and medically dead should be kept on life support for the sake of a fetus. It also has garnered attention on both sides of the abortion debate, with anti-abortion groups arguing Munoz's fetus deserves a chance to be born.

Earlier Sunday, J.R. Labbe, a spokeswoman for John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth, issued a statement saying the hospital "will follow the court order" issued Friday in the case of Marlise Munoz.

"From the onset, JPS has said its role was not to make nor contest law but to follow it," the statement said. "On Friday, a state district judge ordered the removal of life-sustaining treatment from Marlise Munoz. The hospital will follow the court order."

Judge R.H. Wallace had given the hospital until 5 p.m. (2300 GMT) Monday to comply with his ruling to remove Munoz from life



Erick Munoz stands with a photograph of himself, left, with wife Marlise and their son Mateo, in Haltom City, Texas.

(AP Photo/Ron T. Ennis)

support, which Erick Munoz says is what his wife would have wanted.

She was 14 weeks preg-

nant when her husband found her unconscious Nov. 26, possibly due to a blood clot.

Police: Mall shooting gunman identified

BEN NUCKOLS

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Maryland (AP) —

The gunman who shot two people to death at a Maryland mall had no criminal record, police said Sunday, but little else is known about the 19 year old and whether he knew his victims before he killed them.

Darion Marcus Aguilar of College Park, Maryland, carried out Saturday's attack with a 12-gauge shotgun at a skateboard shop at the Mall in Columbia in suburban Baltimore before killing himself, police said. Howard County Police Chief William McMahon said investigators are trying to determine whether Aguilar knew either of the victims, who were both employees of a shop called Zumiez, which sells skateboards, clothing and accessories and is on the mall's upper floor.

Police identified the victims as 21-year-old Brianna Benlolo of College Park, and 25-year-old Tyler Johnson

of Mount Airy, Maryland. McMahon offered no motive for the shooting.

"There are a lot of unanswered questions," McMahon said at a news conference. Aguilar purchased the shotgun legally last month at a store in neighboring Montgomery County.

It took hours to identify the gunman since he was carrying ammunition and a backpack containing homemade explosives, McMahon said. Officers searched Aguilar's home Saturday night, recovering more ammunition, computers and documents, police said.

The home is a two-story wood-frame house in a middle-income neighborhood called Hollywood, just off U.S. Route 1 and near the Capital Beltway. No one answered the door Sunday morning at the house, which had a Christmas wreath on the front door, signs that read "Beware of Dog" and advertised an alarm system.

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White House warns Obama could go around Congress

PHILIP ELLIOTT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama will work with Congress where he can and circumvent lawmakers where he must, his top advisers warned Sunday in previewing Tuesday's State of the Union policy speech.

Obama faces a politically divided Congress on Tuesday and will use his annual address to demand expanded economic opportunity. Absent legislative action, the White House is telling lawmakers that the president is ready to take unilateral action to close the inequality gap between rich and poor Americans. "I think the way we have to think about this year is we have a divided government," said Dan Pfeiffer, a longtime Obama adviser. "The Republican Congress is not going to rubber-stamp the president's agenda. The president is not going to sign the Republican Congress' agenda."

So the White House is eyeing compromise on some priorities, Obama advisers said. But the president is also looking at executive orders that can be enacted without Congress' approval.

"The president sees this as a year of action to work with Congress where he can and to bypass Congress where necessary," White

House press secretary Jay Carney said. The act-or-else posture upset Republicans.

Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Republican Senate leader. Added Republican Sen. Rand Paul: "It sounds

to revive a bipartisan immigration bill that has passed the Senate, an increased minimum wage or expanding prekindergarten pro-



A clean-shaven White House press secretary Jay Carney jokes with reporters as he arrives for his daily news briefing at the White House in Washington, Friday, Jan. 24, 2014. During the briefing Carney discussed President Barack Obama's State of the Union Address, Iran, and other topics. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

House press secretary Jay Carney said. The act-or-else posture upset Republicans. "The president has sort of hung out on the left and tried to get what he wants through the bureaucracy as opposed to moving to the political center," said

vaguely like a threat, and I think it also has a certain amount of arrogance." With campaigns for November's election on the horizon, there's scant reason for the White House to be optimistic about Republican support for measures

grams. Republicans looking to wrest control of the Senate and keep their majority in the House of Representatives instead want to keep the focus on the struggling economy and Obama's stewardship of it. □

Murder charge set in US campus shooting

ORANGEBURG, South Carolina (AP) — A 20-year-old South Carolina State University student shot to death outside a dormitory was an engineering technology student who also played on the college's football team, the school said Saturday.

Brandon Robinson was a junior who played football as an outside linebacker and defensive end, the university said in a statement. He

attended high school in Orangeburg and appeared in four games last season for SC State, according to the team's online roster.

"Brandon was a fine young man who was paying his way through college. All he wanted to do was play football for the university," Bulldog football Coach Buddy Pough said. "We are at (a) loss for words right now."

Robinson was shot to death

Friday afternoon outside Hugine Suites after arguing with Justin Bernard Singleton, 19, of Charleston, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division said. Singleton was charged with murder and arrested early Saturday at an Orangeburg apartment complex. Singleton "pulled out a gun and fired at Robinson, hitting him in the neck area," according to an arrest warrant filed by a SLED investi-

gator. Singleton is a full-time, sophomore student at South Carolina. State majoring in business, university spokeswoman Sonja Bennett-Bellamy said Saturday. He does not participate in any of the school's athletics programs, but his mother manages a university-owned, off-campus student apartment complex, Bennett-Bellamy said. □

Roommate: teen set off mini-bombs

ALTOONA, Pennsylvania (AP) — A college student from Russia has been arrested and charged with building a suspected bomb in his bedroom at an apartment near Penn State's satellite campus in Altoona, Pennsylvania.

Vladislav Miftakhov, 18, a student at the Altoona campus, was in jail Sunday after being arrested Friday and charged with possessing a weapon of mass destruction, risking a catastrophe and several other drug and weapons counts, according to court records.

The records did not list a lawyer for Miftakhov, who was being held on \$500,000 bail.

His roommate Andrew Leff said Miftakhov had recently set off three "mini-bombs" just outside their apartment.

Leff told the Altoona Mirror newspaper that he had advised Miftakhov to get rid of the bomb-making materials.

He called Miftakhov a "dumb" and "crazy" kid who was bored and impulsive, but not dangerous.

"He was off the wall," Leff told the Mirror.

No one answered a telephone call Sunday to an address listed for Miftakhov in California.

In the affidavit, police said they were investigating a reported marijuana growing operation at Miftakhov's apartment reported by the landlord when they found a suitcase holding two containers with exposed fuses and other explosives-related materials. The devices were later dismantled by Pennsylvania State Police troopers. □

US Financial Front:

America's Chrysler dealers upbeat about purchase by Fiat

J. McCONNAUGHEY

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) —

Chrysler dealers from around the U.S. seem revved up by the purchase of the U.S. carmaker by Italy's Fiat SpA.

They were attending the National Automobile Dealers Association convention in New Orleans on Satur-

day — four days after Fiat announced that it had bought the last big chunk of Chrysler stock to make the U.S. company a wholly owned subsidiary.

"I think it's well deserved," said Pamela Burger of Carl Burger Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram World in the San Diego suburb of La Mesa, California. "They

picked us up out of bankruptcy when we couldn't even be bought, and have grown us over five years. ... They helped us grow instead of stripping us of money and assets."

And, she said, "The quality gets better and better." Fiat has been running Chrysler since 2009 and owned nearly 60 percent

Fiat-Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne won a hard-fought deal with the union-controlled trust fund that owned the remaining 41.5 percent of the stock. With the deal complete, Marchionne can push deeper integration and decide where the joint company will be based and listed, as well as its name.

Clay White of Starr Motors in Suffolk, Virginia, praised Fiat's leadership, "which is something we didn't have with Cerberus or Daimler. Daimler just pillaged the money from Chrysler and took it back to Germany. My opinion."

Chrysler and Daimler-Benz AG merged in 1998 to form DaimlerChrysler. Sold in 2007 to Cerberus Capital Management and renamed Chrysler LLC, the company filed in 2009 for bankruptcy reorganization.

Chrysler, of Auburn Hills, Michigan, logged its ninth straight profitable quarter in the third quarter of 2013, earning \$464 million and propping up Fiat, which is struggling in a down Eu-

ropean market. Without Chrysler, Fiat would have lost \$340 million in that quarter; instead it earned \$260 million.

"In South America, Chrysler is seen as a very premium product" — much more prestigious than Fiat, said Fiat dealer Juan Pablo Meivide of TOP West SA in San Justo, Argentina.

Alabama state Sen. Dick Brewbaker, a member of the third generation at Brewbaker Motors in Montgomery, says he's very impressed by the vehicles' interior design and the company's marketing.

"At first I was a little cautious" about the merger he said. "I will say it has far and away exceeded my expectations."

He said that within five months of the purchase, dealers saw greatly improved vehicles, especially the interiors. The company's marketing also improved, he said.

"I think it was a distraction for a while for Sergio," said Don Lee of Lee Auto Malls of Maine, in Westbrook, Maine. □



Chrysler President and CEO Al Gardner introduces the 2015 Chrysler 200 sedans at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Mich. Chrysler dealers from around the U.S. seem revved up by the purchase of the U.S. carmaker by Italy's Fiat SpA. (AP Photo/Tony Ding)

Collector auctions suggest economic recovery in the US is nearly complete

ROB SASS

© 2014 New York Times

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — The Scottsdale, Arizona classic-car auctions last week were remarkable for not being especially remarkable: No bubbles burst, and neither did the market make another vertical leap.

While no single sale overwhelmed the collector-car community — something that has happened often in previous years — there was a respectable gain in total sales, a record of about \$250 million, an improvement of some 10 percent compared with 2013.

The top sale, at \$8.8 million including the buyer's premium, was a 1958 Ferrari 250 GT California Spider.

Factors contributing to the increase included more than 100 additional cars being offered (some 2,800 in all this year) and a market continuing its recovery from the recession. Average sale prices from the six auctions were up about 7 percent.

And while there was much hand-wringing over whether it could be said that the market had fully recovered — it had not, as many cars still were worth less than what they were at the

of Chrysler's shares but lacked full control until

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YURAS KARMANAU
Associated Press**

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Thousands of Ukrainians chanted "Hero!" and sang the national anthem on Sunday, as a coffin carrying a protester who was killed in last week's clashes with police was carried through the streets of the capital, underscoring the rising tensions in the country's two-month political crisis.

Mikhail Zhiznevsky, 25, was one of three protesters who died in clashes Wednesday.

"He could have been my fiancé, but he died defending my future so that I will live in a different Ukraine," said Nina Uvarov, a 25-year-old student from Kiev who wept as Zhiznevsky's body was carried out of St. Michael's Cathedral.

The opposition contends that Zhiznevsky and another activist were shot by police in an area where demonstrators had been throwing rocks and firebombs at riot police for several days. The government claims the two demonstrators were killed with hunting rifles, which they say police do not carry. The authorities would not say how the third protester died.

Meanwhile, protests against President Viktor Yanukovich continued to engulf the country, now beginning to spread to central and eastern Ukraine, but police drove them back with water sprayed from a fire truck in subfreezing temperatures, the Interfax news agency reported. In Zaporozhets, about 70

awaited agreement to deepen ties with the European Union, but they have been increasingly gripped by people seeking more radical action, even as



Protesters carry the coffin of Mikhail Zhiznevsky, 25, one of two protesters who died of gunshot wounds on Wednesday, during commemorate service on Independence Square in Kiev, Ukraine, Sunday Jan. 26, 2014.

(AP Photo/Efrem Lukatsky)

the leader's support base. In Dnipropetrovsk, 390 kilometers (240 miles) southeast of Kiev on the Dnipro River, several hundred demonstrators tried to storm a local administration build-

ing, but police drove them kilometers (45 miles) down river, demonstrators gathered outside the city administration building. The protests began in late November after Yanukovich shelved a long-

moderate opposition leaders have pleaded for the violence to end.

Zhiznevsky's body was then carried several hundred meters (yards) to Independence Square in central Kiev, where protesters have established a large tent camp and held demonstrations around the clock since early December. Crowds shouted "Yanukovich is a murderer!" and "Down with the criminal," a reference to Yanukovich's run-ins with the law during his youth.

Japan police arrest man on tainted food

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese police arrested a factory worker at a plant that churned out food laced with pesticide, which led to massive poisoning and a recall of more than 6 million packages of frozen food. Police on Sunday identified the suspect as Toshiki Abe, 49, a worker at the subsidiary of Maruha Nichiro Holdings Inc., where the tainted food was found. Abe was arrested Saturday and has denied the charges, police said.

As many as 2,800 people across Japan may have been sickened by the tainted food, including pizzas, croquettes and pancakes manufactured at the plant in Gunma prefecture, north of Tokyo.

Abe is suspected of lacing the food with poison four times in October, and malathion, the pesticide used, was found in his possessions, according to Kyodo News service. Other details were not immediately available.

Maruha Nichiro has announced executive pay cuts and said that President Toshio Kushiuro and the president of the subsidiary were resigning in March to take responsibility for the food poisoning.

The Tokyo-based manufacturer has repeatedly apologized and bought full-page ads in major newspapers to apologize and warn people not to eat any of the possibly tainted food.

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Quebec fire bodies search temporarily suspended for cold

L'ISLE-VERTE, Quebec (AP)

— Crews resumed searching for the remains of 22 people presumed killed in a fire at a Quebec seniors' residence after suspending their activities earlier Sunday due to the frigid temperatures and swirling snow. Officials so far have confirmed 10 dead from the massive fire.

Quebec Premier Pauline Marois cut short a trip to Europe to visit the town of L'Isle-Verte on Sunday, where she met with the mayor and went to the scene of Thursday's fire at the Residence du Havre.

The premier told a news conference that everything is being done to provide support for those who survived the fire and to give closure to those still awaiting word on their loved ones. She called the blaze "unacceptable" and said the provincial government is prepared to bring about any changes that are necessary to increase safety in senior residences.

"First of all, we will wait for the inquiry because now, we don't have the results of this evaluation and examination," Marois said. "After that, we will see if there are some new rules to adopt."

Marois said a working committee has been in place for one year studying a number of issues, including whether mandatory sprinklers are necessary in these types of buildings. Quebec's Department of Social Services said the Residence du Havre was up to code and had a proper evacuation plan. A Quebec Health Department document indicates the home, which

has operated since 1997, had only a partial sprinkler system. The home expanded around 2002, and the sprinklers in the new part of the building triggered the alarm. "If they recommend to us to change the rules, to change the laws and implement (mandatory) sprinklers, we will do that," Marois said.

The cause of Thursday's blaze remains under investigation. There were media reports that the fire began in the room of a resident who was smoking a cigarette, but police said Saturday that was just one possibility among many.

"It could be a cigarette, it could be a small heater, it could be an electrical problem," Police Lt. Michel Brunet said at a news conference. "We have to be sure at 100 percent."

"We're going to take the time we need," he added. Meanwhile, a Sunday afternoon Mass was planned to give residents of L'Isle-Verte a chance to gather together to share their grief. Father Gilles Frigon, the town's Catholic priest, called it "a step toward healing" and invited relatives and friends to bring photos of the victims.

A more official memorial ceremony featuring dignitaries has been scheduled for Feb. 1.

Harsh weather conditions continued to hamper the search with Quebec Provincial Police spokeswoman Ann Mathieu saying poor visibility, blowing snow and frigid conditions forced authorities to temporarily suspend searches early Sunday.



Emergency workers resume the search for victims at a fatal seniors residence fire, Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014, in L'Isle-Verte, Quebec.

(AP Photo/The Canadian Press, Ryan Remiorz)



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Attacks kill 13 across Iraq; soldiers seized

SAMEER N. YACCOUB

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Car bombings and shootings killed 13 people across Iraq on Sunday, authorities said, as militants kidnapped soldiers in an embattled province where al-Qaida-linked fighters hold portions of two major cities.

Kirkuk deputy police chief Maj. Gen. Torhan Abdul-Rahman Youssef said three car bombs exploded Sunday afternoon simultaneously in separate residential neighborhoods.

Youssef said the blasts killed four people and wounded 14.

The northern city of Kirkuk is 290 kilometers (180 miles) from the capital, Baghdad. In Baghdad, police and medical officials said gunmen shot dead a former army officer and his wife in a drive-by shooting in Baghdad's northeastern suburbs.

Police officers also found

three bodies around the capital, their hands and feet tied, all killed by what appeared to be close-range gunshots to the head, officials said.



Gunmen prepare to take up combat positions in Fallujah, Iraq. Car bombings and shootings killed 13 people across Iraq on Sunday, authorities said.

(AP Photo)

Sunday night, a car bomb went off near a Sunni mosque in Mishahda area, killing three people and

wounding 13 others, said police and hospital officials.

Mishahda is 30 kilometers (20 miles) north of Baghdad.

Later on, police said gunmen attacked a security checkpoint in Baghdad's western suburbs of Abu

Ghraib, killing four soldiers. Those officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to journalists. Meanwhile, clashes between security forces and al-Qaida-linked militants continued near a city west of Baghdad, according to local and military officials in the contested province of Anbar.

The officials said that the clashes erupted in the Niamiyah area near Fallujah. Militants also captured five Iraqi soldiers during clashes Sunday, said Dhari al-Arsan, Anbar's deputy governor. Al-Arsan said that several army vehicles were either destroyed or seized by the gunmen as well.

Footage posted online appeared to show five men dressed in Iraqi army uniforms, sitting in the back of a pickup as shouting onlookers and gunmen called them "infidels" and "agents."

Ex-French first lady travels to India for charity

MILOS KRIVOKAPIC

Associated Press

MUMBAI, India (AP) — A day after splitting up with France's president, Valerie Trierweiler launched a new stage in her life Sunday with a charity visit to India. Back at home, President Francois Hollande faced a new showing of discontent with his presidency as some 17,000 people marched through central Paris, angry at his handling of the stagnant economy, high unemployment and high taxes.

The ex-first lady arrived in Mumbai on Sunday night after a flight from Paris, in which she rode business class and cabin crew limited access to reporters also aboard the flight.

Trierweiler is on a long-scheduled humanitarian mission in India, which she maintained despite having just emerged last week from a weeklong stay in a hospital. Trierweiler was hospitalized with what aides described as shock and the blues after a French gossip magazine published images that it said proved Hollande was having an affair with an actress.

Aides said Trierweiler is limiting her activities in India, and won't visit a Mumbai slum as scheduled. She is also scheduled to visit a nutritional center at a hospital and attend a news conference and gala dinner Monday, in conjunction with aid group Action Against Hunger.

Hollande announced the end of his relationship with Trierweiler on Saturday. Their relationship became public in 2007, after Hollande ended more than a two-decade relationship with the mother of his four children, former presidential candidate Segolene Royal.

In an interview published Sunday and conducted before he'd split with Trierweiler, Hollande renewed his plea for privacy. He told Time magazine that "private life is always, at certain times, a challenge.

Al-Qaida leader opposes fighting Christians

M. YOUSSEF

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Al-Qaida's

leader said Egypt's majority Muslims should not fight their Christian compatriots,

and instead focus their efforts on opposing the military-backed authorities who ousted the Islamist president last summer.

It was a rare call by Ayman al-Zawahri in defense of Christians, who largely supported the popularly backed coup against Mohammed Morsi and were subsequently targeted by a wave of violence.

In an audio message posted on militant websites, al-Zawahri said it was not in the interest of Muslims to be engaged with the Christians because "we have to be busy confronting the Americanized coup of (Gen. Abdel-Fattah) el-Sissi and establish an Islamic government instead."

El-Sissi is Egypt's defense minister who overthrew Morsi after millions of Egyptians protested to demand he step down. T

"We must not seek war with the Christians and thus give the West an excuse to blame Muslims, as has happened before," al-Zawahri said.

He railed against el-Sissi with particularly strong

language, describing him as the same as the military strongmen who have led Egypt over the past 60 years.

"He is a mercenary, an Americanized puppet, an impostor, treacherous and sinful with a history of boot-licking," al-Zawahri said.

He also lashed out at Morsi, saying he had cooperated with secular Egyptians and surrendered to the Americans by acknowledging agreements with them and Israel. He said this was the reason for Morsi's downfall. Al-Zawahri urged the people of the Sinai Peninsula to support Palestinians in the neighboring Gaza Strip and help break "the siege imposed by el-Sissi."

Regarding Syria, he said: "America got what it wanted — to secure Israel from Assad's chemical weapons in exchange for turning a blind eye to his crimes."

Al-Zawahri said the kidnapping of al-Qaida suspect Abu Anas al-Libi by U.S. special forces in Tripoli last October proved the Libyan government was an American puppet.

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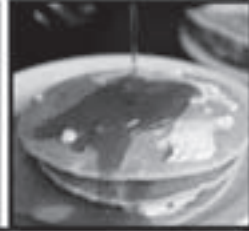
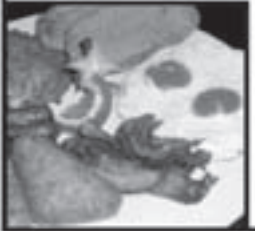
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German newspaper publishes top Nazi's letters



1935 photo provided by German newspaper 'Die Welt' shows a family photo of Heinrich Himmler in Valepp, Bavaria. The picture shows Himmler with his wife Marga, back right, his daughter Gudrun, front center, his son Gerhard, front right, and a friend of Gudrun, front left. The photo is part of a trove of letters, notes and photos that were in possession of an Israeli family.

(AP Photo/Realworks Ltd./DIE WELT, HO)

KIRSTEN GRIESHABER

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — One black-and white photo shows Heinrich Himmler on an idyllic family outing, holding his wife's hand while his blond, pigtailed daughter is picking flowers. Others show the SS Nazi leader feeding a little fawn or taking a bath at Lake Tegernsee near his home in Bavaria.

The family-friendly, intimate scenes are part of a previously unseen collection of photos, recipe books and about 700 letters and notes believed to be written by Himmler, one of the Nazis most responsible for the Holocaust.

Excerpts from the collection appeared in seven full pages of the German paper Welt am Sonntag on Sunday. They contain large-sized images of Himmler surrounded by his family and excerpts from his love letters to wife Marga, calling her "my sweet,

beloved little woman."

The newspaper said the material is part of an eight-part series it plans to publish.

Welt said it was approached three years ago by Israeli film director Vanessa Lapa, whose family had the documents in its possession. Welt said the documents' authenticity has been independently verified by historians.

The paper said two U.S. Army soldiers found the trove right at the end of the war in May 1945, inside a safe in Himmler's home in Bavaria.

Decades later, in the 1980s, the papers surfaced in Israel in the hands of Holocaust survivor Chaim Rosenthal. Welt says it is not clear how he obtained the papers. Rosenthal kept them until 2007, when he sold the documents to Vanessa Lapa's father, who then gave them to his daughter.

Lapa will debut a documentary she directed on the Himmler files at next month's Berlin International Film Festival.

Almost 70 years after the end of the Third Reich, the documents provide an unprecedented glimpse into the private life of Himmler and evidence of his radical anti-Semitism.

Himmler's hatred of Jews was shared by his wife. In their correspondence, they both often refer to Jews in derogatory terms and in a letter from June 21, 1928, Himmler writes to Marga: "Don't be upset about those Jews, good, good wife, if only I could help you."

Ten years later, Marga writes in a diary entry on Nov. 14, 1938, "Those Jews, when will that pack finally leave us so that we can enjoy our lives again," according to Sunday's Welt.

In the midst of World War II, when many Germans spent their nights at shelters hiding from the bomb raids of the Allied forces, the letters show the privileged life of the Nazis' top families.

Welt quotes from letters saying that Himmler was sending his family chocolate and cheese while the rest of the population was barely surviving on allotted food stamps. In May 1942, Himmler brought his

wife and daughter from the Netherlands "fruit, vegetables and 150 tulips ... striped, jagged, two-colored, one color — such that you can't see here."

The writings also trace Himmler's career from the early beginnings and rise of the Nazis in the 1920s, all the way to the genocide of Europe's Jews in the 1940s. Himmler does not explicitly write about the atrocities of World War II. But small letter

fragments and quotes reveal his involvement — often shocking in the banality of its evilness — as when he writes to his wife "I'm going to Auschwitz, kisses, yours Heini."

Before going on an inspection tour of various death camps in occupied Poland, where he wanted to watch the gassing of hundreds of Jews firsthand, Himmler wrote on July 15, 1942, to his wife. □

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LatAm summit in Cuba focus on poverty, inequality

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Leaders from Latin America and the Caribbean are arriving in Havana this weekend for a summit of a fledgling regional bloc that was conceived as a force for integration and a counterbalance to their most powerful neighbor, the United States.

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, or CELAC for its initials in Spanish, was formed in 2011 and comprises every nation in the Western Hemisphere except the U.S. and Canada. By Sunday, Argentine President Cristina Fernandez and several foreign ministers were already in Havana for the summit. Lower-level officials began meeting over the weekend and foreign ministers are taking the stage Monday. The formal meetings of heads of state begin Tuesday.



Argentina's President Cristina Fernandez gets into in her car outside the Hotel Nacional in Havana, Cuba, Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014. Leaders from Latin America and the Caribbean are arriving in Havana this weekend to participate in the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, or CELAC summit. Lower-level officials began meeting over the weekend and foreign ministers are taking the stage Monday. The formal meetings of heads of state begin Tuesday.

(AP Photo/Franklin Reyes)

day. Nobody was a bigger advocate for the bloc than the late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, an outspoken critic of Washing-

ton seen by many as the standard-bearer for the region's political left before he succumbed to cancer in March. "It is the first summit after

the death of Hugo Chavez, the great driving force" behind CELAC, said Eduardo Bueno, a professor of Latin American studies at Iberoamericana University in Mexico. "I think they are going to be measuring their possibilities for the future." The bloc was born out of discontent with the Organization of American States, or OAS, which some see as dominated by Washington's interests. In recent years Chavez and others, including conservative presidents and U.S. allies such as Colombia's Juan Manuel Santos, were united in their frustration that the OAS does not include Cuba, which was expelled in 1962. Cuba's suspension was ended in 2009 with U.S. consent. President Raul Castro's government applauded the move but quickly said it had no interest in being part of a group

it calls a mechanism to effect U.S. regional dominance.

Miguel Tinker Salas, a historian of Latin America at Pomona College, said CELAC's existence puts pressure on the Washington-based OAS to respond to the interests of the region's countries if it is to remain relevant.

"The fact that nations as diverse as Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico or Brazil participate (in CELAC) ... shows they give importance to this alternative process of integration," Tinker Salas said.

Jose Miguel Insulza, secretary-general of the OAS, has been invited to the summit as an observer. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has also confirmed his attendance.

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto is among the heads of state coming to Havana.

Argentina backtracks on dollar details

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP) — Argentina's economy minister is backtracking on details of the government's recent announcements over the easing of currency controls.

Argentina announced Friday it was relaxing restrictions on the purchase of U.S. dollars. The decision was forced by double-digit inflation and the sharpest slide in the local peso's value since its 2002 economic collapse, causing fears among many Argentines that it could happen again.

Economy Minister Axel Kicillof told local daily Pagina 12 in an interview published Sunday that the Argentine tax rate on credit card purchases made in dollars will not be lowered Monday from the current 35 percent to 20 percent, as he had announced.

"In the case of currency for tourism and for purchases with a credit card abroad, the 35 to 20 percent move will not be implemented this Monday," Kicillof said. There was no word of when, or if, the tax rate on credit card purchases may

be eased.

The tax for credit card purchases in dollars was issued by the center-left government late last year ahead of the southern hemisphere vacation season as one of several controls aimed at slowing the flood of greenbacks out of the country.

"Internal tourism improved a lot in Argentina and those who wanted to travel were able to," Kicillof said. "People with a high purchasing power were able to spend in dollars without limits using their credit card."

The tax will still be lowered for cash purchases, however. And all the other announced measures are still to take effect Monday, most notably a provision allowing Argentines to again buy pesos for personal savings, reversing a 2012 restriction.

Argentina has been kept from global credit markets since defaulting on its debt during the 2001-2002 economic crisis, so the government heavily relies on its foreign exchange reserves to meet debt obligations and finance infrastructure projects.



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ORANJESTAD - Introducing a brand new concept to Aruba, MIX UP Mondays provides a platform for young talented and already established artists to show their discipline to the public. The first edition will take place at Cas Di Cultura the 27th of January 2014 at 8:00 PM. Similar to the open stage idea, the night does highlight selected art forms per edition. This first edition will focus on

Circus Dance and Jazz music. Featured are the very talented Jolinde Nijland, a trapeze artist that has worked with Cirque du Soleil and the massive Sensation White worldwide dance events, accompanied by the soulful tunes and sensual voice of Roel de Vries. Niels Onstenk, Voted Holland's Best Guitarist 2013 will provide the audience with his repertoire and Sanghita Muntslag, who sounds and

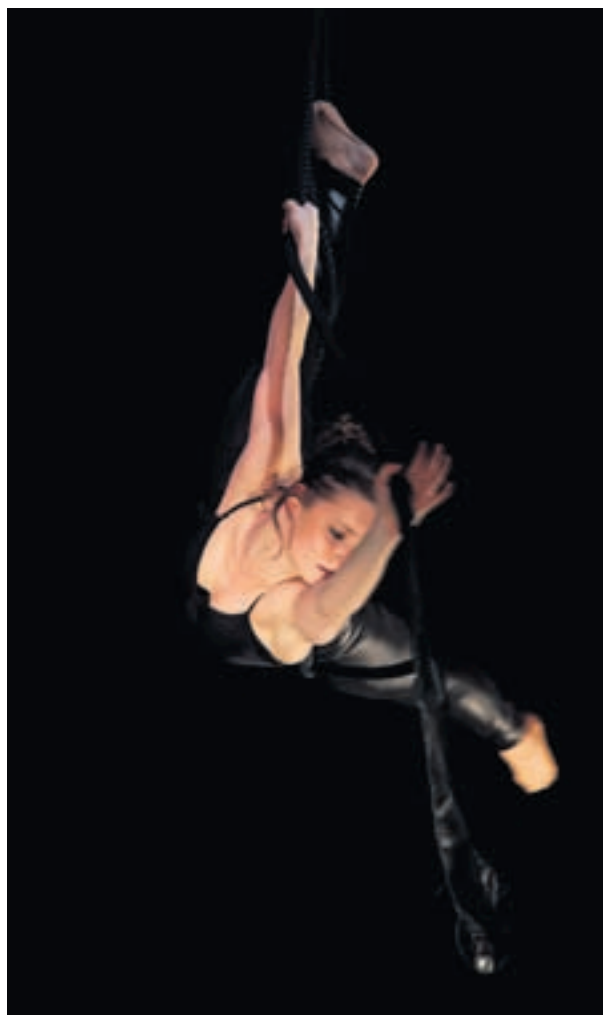


looks like Erykah Badu, will fill the night with romance. Silvia Mataloni, Italian born dancer, will give her velvet rope show on their music and a special performance is given by Ritmo Cubano, of which Diego and Yamila will perform an intimate and passionate dance,... in the air! This evening is suitable for everybody, all ages and languages because the songs that will be song are in English while the perfor-



mances take place. Tickets of a\$15, - are available at Cas Di Cultura and at VCC International NV. For more information/reserva-

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PALM BEACH - The much-anticipated Superbowl, with the Seahawks Vs. Broncos, on Sunday, February 2nd, takes off with pre-game activities at 4:00 p.m. and the game kick-off at 6:25 p.m. The Casino at the Radisson will be showing the game on all its TV screens and will be awarding \$100 in free



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The Casino Sports Book will be accepting bets all day. The Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa is inviting sport fans to come early for lunch, dinner or Happy Hour, while patronizing all three resort outlets showing the game including Castaway Beach Bar, Gilligan's Beach Bar & Grill and Mira Solo Martini Bar with super deals and an ongoing party on the pool deck.

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Fried Fish Basket for only \$15 or a delicious Red Snapper for \$20, you wish it was Monday every day! Bugaloe is known for fun and craziness, so it was only logical



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Loyal visitors honored at the Renaissance Ocean Suites



ORANJESTAD - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring two very nice couples whom are loyal and friendly Visitors of Aru-

ba, at the Renaissance Ocean Suites as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Bruce and Harriet Woodruff and Kenneth and Gail Lewis. The honorees are loyal

members of the Renaissance Ocean Suites and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, beaches, restaurants, and being on Aruba and staying at the Renaissance

Ocean Suites is like coming home for them. The certificates were presented by Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Linda Garcia, staff members and friends from the honorees. □



John and Mary Rociola honored by ATA!

EAGLE BEACH - John and Mary Rociola were honored at Costa Linda recently as Distinguished Visitors after returning to Aruba for 13 years consecutive. The symbolic honorary title is presented

in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for between 10-and-20 years consecutive. Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing Aruba Tourism Authority

conducted the ceremony at the Costa Linda Resort. Top reasons for returning provided by the honorees were the great weather, the friendly Aruban hospitality and the incredible food. □





Third placed Bode Miller celebrates at the end of an alpine ski, men's World Cup downhill, in Kitzbuehel, Austria, Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014.

Associated Press

Bode Miller makes his 5th U.S. Olympic ski team

PAT GRAHAM
AP Sports Writer

There were really no surprises when the U.S. Ski Team announced its squad for the Sochi Olympics: Mikaela Shiffrin was on the list and, of course, Lindsey Vonn was not.

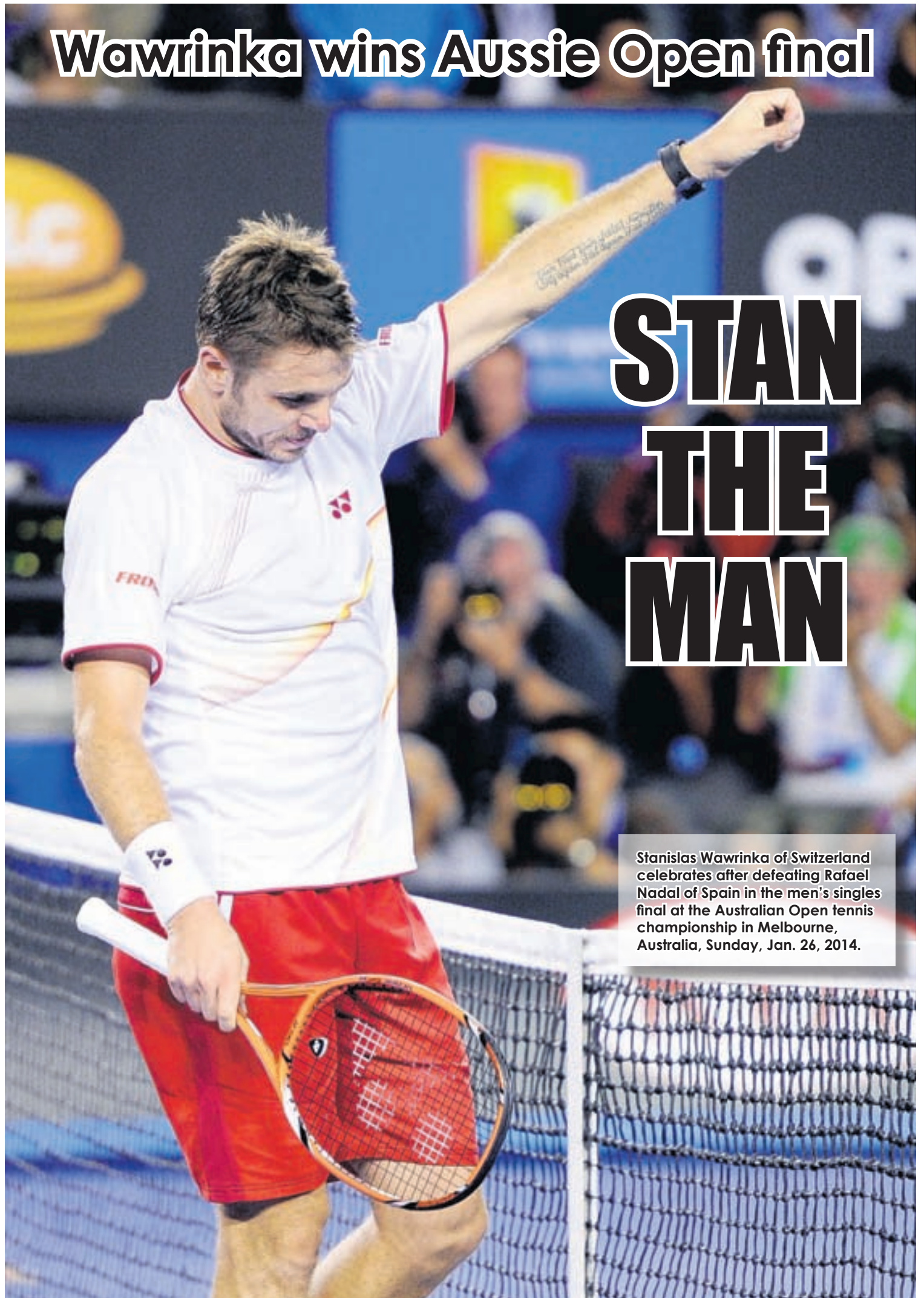
Five-time Olympic medalist Bode Miller made his fifth squad on Sunday, while 2006 Olympic gold medalists Ted Ligety and Julia Mancuso also earned spots. In all, the Americans had nine women and 11 men on the team.

Shiffrin could be the headliner in Russia, especially with Vonn, the reigning Olympic downhill champion for a few more weeks, staying home to recuperate following another operation on her right knee.

The 18-year-old Shiffrin is having quite a season, too, winning three World Cup slalom races. She will be heavily counted on to help the Americans try to top their record eight-medal haul in Vancouver four years ago.

Continued on page 22

Wawrinka wins Aussie Open final



STAN
THE
MAN

Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland celebrates after defeating Rafael Nadal of Spain in the men's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014.

Rangers score 6 straight, top NJ in cold and snow

By IRA PODELL

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) -- After sun reflecting off the ice delayed the first hockey game at Yankee Stadium, the New York Rangers and pinstriped goalie Henrik Lundqvist beat the New Jersey Devils 7-3 in snow and cold Sunday.

Rick Nash scored for the fifth straight game, and the New York Rangers used a four-goal second period to take the lead for good.

The Devils led 1-0 and 3-1 in the first, but New York got within one before intermission and then swarmed future Hall of Fame goalie Martin Brodeur.

After Dominic Moore and Marc Staal had goals in the first for the Rangers, Mats Zuccarello scored two straight to put New York ahead for the first time. Carl Hagelin and Nash found the net, too, behind the beleaguered Brodeur, who angrily swatted the puck away after one of the tallies.

Nash has seven goals in his streak and 18 this season.

A day after the Los Angeles Kings and Anaheim Ducks played in 60-degree weather at Dodger Stadium, the NHL returned to conditions more fitting for hockey.

Lundqvist, who sported stylish pinstriped pads for the occasion, stumbled through a difficult first but



New York Rangers defenseman Marc Staal (18) checks New Jersey Devils right wing Steve Bernier (18) in the second period of a snowy NHL outdoor hockey game at Yankee Stadium in New York, Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014. It is the first time a hockey game has been played in Yankee Stadium.

Associated Press

settled down and made 19 saves.

He hadn't allowed more than two goals in his previous seven outings. The Devils took care of that in the first.

Jaromir Jagr had two assists to excite the large number of New Jersey fans who made the trek to the Bronx for what was nominally a Devils home game.

The teams played through the second period as the snow started and increased in intensity, not long after they were forced to wait around an extra hour to drop the pick because of

bright sunshine that created a dangerous glare on the ice.

The temperature was 24.9 degrees when the first puck dropped at 1:41 p.m. in front of a sellout crowd of 50,105.

Yankee Stadium's second hockey game will take place on Wednesday night when the Rangers will again be the road team in a matchup with the New York Islanders.

Zuccarello tied it 3-3 at 2:48 of the second when he redirected in a pass from John Moore, and put New York in front at the end of

a 3-on-1 rush with 7:16 left. Benoit Pouliot chipped the puck ahead at center ice to Derick Brassard, who sent a pass from the right side to Zuccarello for his 15th goal. Hagelin made it 5-3 just 1:09 later when he flipped a shot from the right circle that appeared to hit Devils defenseman Marek Zidlicky before getting through Brad Richards' screen and by Brodeur.

The Devils netminder was again victimized by an odd-man attack that Nash finished with 28.5 seconds left in the middle frame. Brodeur was serenaded with derisive chants of "Mar-ty ... Mar-ty" as Rangers fans in the stands made their voices heard.

He watched the rest of the game from the bench, as Cory Schneider replaced him to start the third. Brodeur allowed six goals on 21 shots.

Schneider gave up Derek Stepan's penalty-shot goal with 9:54 remaining. The seven goals matched the Rangers' season high.

The Devils grabbed a 1-0 lead 5:36 in when Elias took a pass from Ryane Clowe and came in alone. He snapped a shot that beat Lundqvist inside the left post.

The early edge was short-lived as Moore tied it at 9:07 with his fourth goal. Moore got to a loose puck

off a rebound of defenseman Anton Stralman's shot and flipped the puck into the net at the right post.

But Elias struck again just 22 seconds into New Jersey's second power play, with help from Czech Republic Olympic teammate Jagr, and put the Devils back in front with 9:00 minutes left with his ninth goal.

Jagr rushed the puck toward the net at the left post, and got Lundqvist to go down. But instead of shooting, Jagr found Elias driving to the net and fed him a perfect pass for a goal from the top of the crease.

That pushed Jagr past former Pittsburgh Penguins teammate Mario Lemieux for 10th place in the NHL career assist list. Jagr had tied Lemieux on Friday against Washington with another two-assist performance.

Jagr notched assist No. 1,035 when Zajac made it 3-1 with 3:53 left in the first. Mark Fayne fired a drive that struck Jagr in front and bounded toward Zajac, who got the puck in front of the crease and scored his eighth goal.

The Rangers got back within one when Staal turned a faceoff win in the Devils zone into a score when his shot squeezed in between Brodeur's pads with 3:01 remaining. It was Staal's third of the season.

Action Express takes win in Rolex 24 at Daytona

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)

-- After more than 2,400 miles and 23 1/2 hours of racing, the most prestigious North American sports car race came down to eight minutes and a final five-lap sprint. The first race of the unified United Sports-Car Championship - the NASCAR-owned and IMSA-sanctioned series born from the merger between American Le Mans and Grand-AM - ended with a NASCAR flair. A late, full-course caution swallowed Joao Barbosa's 13-second lead

and gave Max Angelelli a last-ditch chance to win the Rolex 24 at Daytona. Barbosa never gave him a chance, pulling away on the restart with 8:23 to race Sunday to give Action Express Racing its second victory in four years.

It gave Barbosa his second overall win and third in class. Co-driver Sebastien Bourdais won the Rolex for the first time, while Christian Fittipaldi won for the second time. Action Express' second entry finished third - and Chevrolet's new Corvette swept the podium - in an outstanding day for the

Bob Johnson-owned organization. Action won its first Rolex in 2010, and Barbosa was part of that team.

"This one wasn't unexpected," Johnson said. "This one we expected to win." It wasn't easy. Barbosa was black-flagged for avoidable contact while running second Sunday morning, a penalty he called "really harsh" at the time. But the team worked its way back into contention. The caution nearly unraveled the comeback. While Angelelli thought there was enough debris to warrant the caution, Barbosa disagreed.



The Action Express team, from left, Joao Barbosa, of Portugal, Sebastien Bourdais, of France, and Christian Fittipaldi, of Brazil, celebrate in Victory Lane after winning the IMSA Series Rolex 24 hour auto race at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla., Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014.

Associated Press

Jessica Korda wins Bahamas LPGA Classic

PARADISE ISLAND, Bahamas (AP) — Jessica Korda won the season-opening Bahamas LPGA Classic on Sunday for her second tour title, holing a 6-foot birdie putt on the final hole to beat Stacy Lewis by a stroke.

The 20-year-old Korda closed with a 7-under 66 for a 19-under 273 total on Atlantis Resort's Ocean Club course. Lewis parred the final four holes — two of them par 5s — for a 66.

Korda tied Lewis for the lead with a 12-foot birdie putt on the par-3 17th, then got up and down for birdie on the par-5 18th.

Korda's 4-iron approach on 18 scampered through the green to the fringe just short of the grandstand. With an

official and a TV announcer holding up cords that would have interfered with her stroke, she putted under the wires to set up the winning birdie.

"That was different," Korda said. "It was like jump rope."

She admitted she was nervous on the winning putt.

"Incredible!" Korda said. "I could barely put the golf ball down and line up."

Korda's father, Petr, won the 1998 Australian Open tennis tournament and her mother, Regina Raichrtova, was also a professional tennis player. Korda earned \$195,000 and is projected to jump from 40th to 26th in the world ranking.

Lewis birdied six of the first eight holes, but then dropped a stroke on the

par-4 ninth. She birdied the par-5 11th and par-4 14th to reach 18 under, but closed with four straight pars. On the 18th, her flop shot from short of the green came up short and her 15-foot birdie try stopped inches from the cup.

Paula Creamer, paired with Korda all four days, had a 69 to tie for third with Na Yeon Choi, Lizette Salas and Pornanong Phatlum at 16 under. Phatlum finished with a 67, Salas had a 71, and Choi shot 72.

Lydia Ko, the 16-year-old New Zealander making her first start as an LPGA Tour member, had a 68 to tie for seventh at 15 under. She won the Canadian Women's Open the last two years as an amateur. □



Jessica Korda of the U.S. kisses her trophy as she poses for photographers following her victory at the LPGA Pure Silk Bahamas Classic at the Ocean Club Golf Course, Paradise Island, Bahamas, Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014.

Associated Press



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CASINO AND SHOPS



Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland does stretches as he plays Rafael Nadal of Spain during the men's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014.

Associated Press

Wawrinka: Tried again, didn't fail this time

JOHN PYE
AP Sports Writer
MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— For 35 Grand Slam tournaments, the words of an Irish poet became something of a mantra for Stan Wawrinka. After one too many defeats, he had them inscribed on his left arm.

At each ball toss, if he cared to glance, he could see the words of Samuel Beckett: "Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try Again. Fail again. Fail better."

He's going to have to come up with something new after beating top-ranked Rafael Nadal to

win his first Grand Slam title at the Australian Open on Sunday night. Nadal was clearly hampered by a back injury after the first set, but Wawrinka blocked that out of his mind to win 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

Coming into the first major of 2014, Wawrinka hadn't beaten No. 1-ranked Nadal in a dozen matches, and had a 14-match losing streak against No. 2 Novak Djokovic, who won three straight Australian Open titles from 2011-'13. He wasn't even the highest-ranked player in Switzerland, not surprising considering he was playing in Roger Federer's generation.

"I had that quote in my head for a long time. It was part of my life, how I see the life, and especially how I see the tennis life," Wawrinka said of the Beckett quote.

He was pessimistic about anyone breaking the dominance of Federer, Nadal, Djokovic and Andy Murray — the so-called Big Four who accounted for all but one of the previous 35 major titles.

"It's not easy because tennis life, when you lose, it's tough to get through and to take a positive from a loss, from failing from a tournament," he said. "So that's how I see, in general, my career. I always go back to practice to try to improve myself and to give me all the chance to beat the best player in the world."

After being the first man in 21 years to beat the top two players en route to a major title — he beat Djokovic in the quarterfinals to avenge two five-set defeats to the Serbian in Grand Slams last year — Wawrinka will move from No. 8 to No. 3 in the rankings. Not surprisingly, Federer was the first to call to congratulate Wawrinka, after the new champion spoke on the phone with his own family back in Switzerland.

"I didn't call so many

(people), but my wife, my daughter, my sister, and Roger called me," said Wawrinka, still clutching the trophy at a news conference more than two hours later. "So, yeah, was nice for me. I know that he's really, really happy for me."

Federer had wanted an all-Swiss final but lost to Nadal in the semifinals — his 23rd loss in 33 matches against the Spaniard. Considering Wawrinka had only ever beaten Federer once, nobody really gave him a chance of stopping Nadal from becoming the first man to win each of the four major trophies twice in the Open era.

Nadal appeared to be on the verge of retiring in the second set, when he took a medical time out that frustrated Wawrinka. His service speed dropped dramatically, he wasn't retrieving as well as usual, and he was sweating on mistakes from the other side to pick up cheap points.

"It's really not the way you want to win a tennis match, but in a Grand Slam final I'll take it," Wawrinka said.

Nadal has had cursed luck with injuries in Australia. He won the title here in 2009 and lost the 2012 final to Djokovic. But he missed the 2013 edition during a seven-month layoff with knee injuries and illness, and his quarterfinal losses in 2010 and 2011 were affected by injuries.

Wawrinka recalled an agonizing loss of his own here — going down in the fourth round to Djokovic last year in the longest Grand Slam match of the season — as motivation for his surge up the rankings last year, achieved with the help of former No. 2-ranked Magnus Norman as coach.

"Rafa, I'm really sorry for you, I hope your back is going to be fine, you're a really great guy, good friend and really amazing champion," Wawrinka said as he accepted his first major trophy. "Last year I had a crazy match, I lost it. □"

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Heat win Finals rematch, top Spurs 113-101

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Dwyane Wade came off the bench for the first time in more than six years. The Larry O'Brien Trophy wasn't at stake. Spurs coach Gregg Popovich sported a casual, no-tie look.

An NBA Finals rematch, yes. An NBA Finals replay, it was not.

Either way, it still wound up going how the Miami Heat wanted.

Chris Bosh scored 24 points on 9 for 10 shooting - making him 17 for his last 18 from the floor - and LeBron James added 18 points as the Heat rolled past the San Antonio Spurs 113-101 on Sunday, never trailing and leading by as many as 29 points along the way.

"Did that feel like The Finals? No, it did not feel like The Finals," is how Heat coach Erik Spoelstra opened his postgame remarks, without anyone even asking the question.

Mario Chalmers scored 16 points for Miami, which used Wade as a reserve for the first time since Jan. 6, 2008. Wade - an All-Star starter again this season -

had not played in any of Miami's most recent four games while dealing with ongoing knee rehabilitation, and finished with eight points and five assists in 24 minutes.

Wade said not starting was his idea, and seemed generally pleased with his first game in nine days.

"I've only had one practice in a while," Wade said. "Team was in a good groove. I wanted to work my way into my rhythm."

Michael Beasley scored 12, Norris Cole scored 11 and Ray Allen added 10 for Miami (32-12). Spoelstra said afterward that nothing is set in stone about Wade's status going forward.

"It was just good to have him out there," Spoelstra said.

Tim Duncan led San Antonio with 23 points. Boris Diaw added 15, Marco Belinelli scored 12 and Tony Parker finished with 11 for the Spurs, who were without three players who played key roles in last year's Finals. Kawhi Leonard (hand), Danny Green (hand) and Tiago Splitter (shoulder) all remain sidelined for San Antonio (33-11), which lost

for just the fourth time in 20 road games.

"Everybody has injuries. You have to deal with them during the season," said Parker, who jammed a finger Sunday but didn't seem concerned. "Obviously, it's hurting us but they're going to come back. We just have to keep pushing and try to get better."

The game was tied at 44 late in the first half. Before long, it was a runaway.

Miami closed the second quarter with a 14-6 spurt, outscored San Antonio 33-21 in the third and opened the fourth on a 13-4 run, just in case there was any remaining doubt, which hardly seems likely.

Add it up, and over a 20-minute stretch the two-time defending champs outscored the Spurs 60-31.

"They kind of got in a comfort zone," Duncan said. "Obviously a very good team and very good at what they do, just didn't get them off their game at all."

Sunday's game was the first official meeting between the teams since Miami won Game 7 of last season's Finals. San Antonio visited



Miami Heat players Michael Beasley (8) and Chris Andersen (11) block San Antonio Spurs' Manu Ginobili (20) during the first half of a NBA basketball game in Miami, Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014.
Associated Press

Miami in the preseason, a night where the title rematch was the only thing really worth talking about, but at least the Spurs didn't have to see Miami's third championship banner hanging from the rafters of American Airlines Arena that night.

"Obviously, it brought back memories, for sure," James said. "But it's a regular-season game where both teams were trying to get better."

The third quarter decided

just about everything. Bosh was 4 for 4 from the field, on the way to a 12-point quarter.

Miami outrebounded San Antonio 14-3 in the period, with James and Cole each grabbing one more rebound than the entire Spurs roster did collectively.

"It's a bad combination when we're not disciplined enough defensively and they're making shots," Popovich said. "They shot it really well - came with their 'A' game." □



Texas Rangers starting pitcher Matt Garza (22) delivers a pitch to the Los Angeles Angels during the first inning of a baseball game, Thursday, Sept. 26, 2013, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

By GENARO C. ARMAS
AP Sports Writer

MILWAUKEE (AP) - Free agent pitcher Matt Garza signed a four-year contract with Milwaukee on Sunday,

strengthening the top of the rotation and boosting the Brewers' hopes following a disappointing season. The Brewers made the announcement, saying the

Free agent RHP Garza, Brewers reach 4-year deal

contract included a vesting option for the 2018 season. Earlier in the afternoon, team owner Mark Attanasio was on stage during a question-and-answer session at a fan event and said a deal was in place.

"Matt is an established top-of-the-rotation pitcher who provides our staff with experience and quality depth," general manager Doug Melvin said.

A person familiar with the negotiations, who was not authorized to speak publicly about the contract, told The Associated Press the four-year deal was worth \$50 million with an extra \$1

million per year in reachable performance bonuses for a starter. The 30-year-old righty went 10-6 with a 3.82 ERA last season for the Chicago Cubs and Texas Rangers. He missed most of the first two months while recovering from an injury that affected his side and back. Garza will join Yovani Gallardo and Kyle Lohse as Milwaukee's top starters. He is 67-67 with a 3.84 ERA in eight seasons with Minnesota, Tampa Bay, the Cubs and Texas. Garza was looking forward to pitching - and hitting - back in the NL Central.

"It's fun. I like the Central, I

like pitching in the Central," Garza said in a conference call. "I like swinging the bat in the big parks."

The move also adds depth to the staff and puts less pressure on young pitcher such as Wily Peralta and Tyler Thornburg in the back end of the rotation.

"We've said now for a couple of years that we're focusing on pitching and pitching depth," Attanasio told reporters. "You can never have enough pitching depth, and I would argue we have as much pitching depth as we've had (in) my 10 seasons of ownership." □

Miller

Continued from Page 17

Too much pressure for someone so young?

"I'm not worried about the Olympics, that it's going to overwhelm her," U.S. women's coach Alex Hoedlmoser said. "There's nothing else she wants right now except success. It was no different than when Lindsey was her age. She was the same way."

Vonn was trying to get back to the slopes in time for Sochi after tearing two ligaments in her knee during a high-speed crash at the world championships last February. She was ahead of schedule, too, before re-injuring her surgically repaired ACL in a crash during training in November.

Undeterred, Vonn rested the knee and still hoped to make it back, but sprained her MCL racing a downhill in France on Dec. 21. She later decided to undergo another surgery.

Losing Vonn has been a big jolt to the team. Not only because she's a four-time overall World Cup champion and has won 59 races on the circuit, but because the U.S. speed team members use her to measure their progress. She's their most dynamic training partner and when she missed most of the

early season preparation period to rehab her knee, it may have contributed to the team's slow start this season.

"The other athletes didn't really have the pace that they usually have with Lindsey," Hoedlmoser explained. "Lindsey is always there in training and shows some incredible speed and you know when you train with her and you're close, that you're probably going to be close to being on the podium."

But they're picking up steam with Sochi drawing near.

Mancuso definitely feels ready after finishing seventh over the weekend in a downhill in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy.

"This puts me in a good spot for the Olympics," said Mancuso, who captured two silver medals in Vancouver.

Same with Stacey Cook, who finished tied for fifth in Cortina.

"You can believe that you're skiing well for a long time but until there are results you don't have that next level of confidence, and I think I have that now," said Cook, who made her third Olympic squad. "It's good timing."

Miller is rounding back into form as well, taking second during a super-G race in Kitzbuehel, Austria, on Sunday. Miller was away from



Bode Miller of United States speeds down the course to win an alpine ski men's World Cup Super G in Kitzbuehel, Austria, Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014.

Associated Press

competition for 20 months as he recovered from micro-fracture surgery on his left knee. It's an injury that could've ended his career, but he will be in the starting gates in Russia, with the intention of skiing numerous events. He's coming off his most successful Olympics, winning a medal of every color in Vancouver.

"I don't think Bode ever doubted that he'd be at this point right now and I don't think he ever contemplated that he would stop before this," said Luke

Bodensteiner, the executive vice president of the U.S. Ski and Snowboarding Association. "We believed in him and believed he could make an effective return from his injury. I think Bode is very cognizant of stature, very cognizant of the legacy he wants to leave and he's got some unfinished business and really wants to see this through."

Other members of the team on the men's side include: David Chodounsky, Erik Fisher, Travis Ganong,

Jared Goldberg, Tim Jitloff, Nolan Kasper, Steven Nyman, Marco Sullivan and Andrew Weibrecht, who won a bronze medal in Vancouver.

On the women's side, the team also includes: Julia Ford, Megan McJames, Laurenne Ross, Leanne Smith, Resi Stiegler, and Jacqueline Wiles.

"We're on a really good track right now," Alpine director Patrick Riml said. "I feel really comfortable with this team going into the Games." □

Pacquiao-Bradley rematch set for April 12

NEW YORK (AP) — Nearly two years after Timothy Bradley defeated Manny Pacquiao in a disputed split decision, promoters announced Saturday the two will fight again on April 12.

Pacquiao's loss to Bradley on June 9, 2012, broke a 15-fight winning streak during which he was recognized as one of the best pound-for-pound boxers in the world along with Floyd Mayweather.

Later that year, Juan Manuel Marquez knocked out Pacquiao, making many think that Pacquiao's age and outside-the-ring activities— he's a congressman in the Philippines, does ex-



In this June 9, 2012, file photo, Timothy Bradley, left, from Palm Springs, Calif., lands a punch against Manny Pacquiao, from the Philippines, during their WBO world welterweight title fight in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

tensive charity work and moonlights as an actor and singer — had hurt his ability to box at a high level.

In November, Pacquiao, 35, defeated Brandon Rios in a comeback fight in Macau.

Bradley, 30, defended his welterweight championship twice since beating Pacquiao: a brutal brawl with Ruslan Provodnikov and a close decision over Marquez.

Bradley abandoned his defensive style against Provodnikov and left the ring swollen and with a concussion. Bradley said he slurred his speech for two months after the fight. Against Marquez, Bradley used his box-

ing skills to avoid the power that had caught Pacquiao, and won another close decision.

Promoters Bob Arum and Todd duBoef of Top Rank and Michael Koncz of MP Promotions announced the fight, which will be held at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

Pacquiao is 55-5-2 with 38 knockouts. He has been lobbying for a fight with the undefeated Mayweather, but Mayweather says he will fight someone else — likely Britain's Amir Khan or Argentina's Marcos Maidana — in May.

The 30-year-old Bradley, from California, is 31-0 with 12 KOs. □

Bitstrips amuses, annoys as its comics go viral

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Bitstrips may seem like a sudden sensation now that the app maker's comic vignettes are all over Facebook and other social networks. But the Toronto start-up's success was a drawn-out process.

The concept for a mobile application that lets people turn their lives into comic strips took shape as a high school diversion more than 20 years ago. That's when Jacob Blackstock drew a profane spoof of Charlie Brown and Lucy Van Pelt from the "Peanuts" comic strip and passed it to Shahan Panth, who sat behind him in 12th-grade English class. Even though a teacher reprimanded them for boorish behavior, a snickering Panth encouraged Blackstock to continue expressing his irreverent take on life through comics.

The two friends remained in touch after high school, often relying on comics as a way to communicate and needle each other. When Panth landed his first job out of college at an insurance company, Blackstock made it a point to fax a crude comic featuring his friend each day.

"I can't even repeat some of the things that he would say in those comics, but it was as about bad as you can possibly imagine," Panth says.

Goofing off eventually turned into a business. In 2007, Blackstock and Panth



In this Dec. 19, 2013 photo, Bitstrips CEO and Creative Director Jacob Blackstock poses for a photo at the company's offices in Toronto.

decided to start Bitstrips in an attempt to create a comic-strip version of YouTube. Bitstrips remained a novelty service confined to customizing comics within Web browsers until Oct., when the company released a mobile application for iPhones, iPads and devices running on Android software.

But Blackstock, 38, and Panth, 39, are getting the last laugh as their once-quirky pastime turns into a worldwide phenomenon. More than 30 million people in 90 countries have turned themselves into comic-book characters on Bitstrips' mobile applications. Google, which tracks people's interests through its widely used search engine,

rated Bitstrips as the trendiest app of 2013, eclipsing the likes of Twitter's Vine video app, Facebook's Instagram photo app, King.com's Candy Crush game and SnapChat's ephemeral messaging app.

"A ridiculous amount of people have been loving Bitstrips so much that many of them are sharing their comics to the point that it can be overwhelming to those that aren't into it," said Blackstock, who is Bitstrips' CEO and creative director.

With hopes of preventing a backlash to its application, Bitstrips recently added options that allow users to share their comics with a limited group of people instead of broadcasting

through their Facebook networks or other digital hangouts.

Bitstrips' free mobile apps triggered the craze by making it easy for anyone with a smartphone or tablet computer to quickly create and post comics featuring themselves and a friend depicted in different scenarios.

The apps provide thousands of comic scenes to choose from, then allows each user to create their own captions.

The overwhelming response surprised Blackstock and Panth, who had to scramble to increase Bitstrips' computing capacity to keep with the intense demand.

They now have a staff of 17

workers and have raised \$3 million from Horizons Ventures in Hong Kong.

The seed money will help keep the service running until Blackstock and Panth figure out how to generate revenue from Bitstrips' rapidly growing audience. One possibility: The company could charge users for extra Bitstrips features that would allow them to do things like insert themselves into comics that also feature characters from their favorite TV show or movie. Horizon Ventures' backing of Bitstrips is notable because it is run by Li Ka-shing, whose track record includes early investments in other now-popular digital services such as Facebook, Spotify, Skype and Waze. Facebook now boasts a \$144 billion market value while Skype sold to Microsoft for \$8.5 billion and Waze sold for nearly \$1 billion to Google. Spotify remains a privately held company that doesn't disclose its finances, but the market value of its music streaming service has been pegged above \$4 billion. Blackstock, who is nicknamed "BA" in reference to a sound he made as a child, thinks Bitstrips will prove his ideas weren't quite as goofy as they seemed when his high school English teacher caught him drawing cheeky comics a few decades ago.

"We don't see this as a joke engine," Blackstock says. "We see this as a new medium for self-expression." □

Qualcomm buys Palm patents from Hewlett-Packard

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Cell-phone chip maker Qualcomm Inc. said Thursday it has acquired patents once owned by smartphone maker Palm Inc. from Hewlett-Packard for an undisclosed amount.

Qualcomm says the purchase covers 1,400 U.S. patents and about 1,000 more foreign patents for the company's mobile computing technology. Hewlett-Packard Co. paid

\$1 billion for Palm in 2010 as part of its first foray into tablet computers and smartphones, which ran on Palm's operating system. The effort flopped and HP now sells tablets using Google Inc.'s Android and a recently introduced version of Microsoft Corp.'s Windows. Palo Alto, California-based HP hasn't re-entered the smartphone market.

The Palm acquisition was

one of three major purchases that have haunted HP, along with technology consulting service EDS and business software maker Autonomy. In November of 2012, Hewlett took an \$8.8 billion writedown on the Autonomy acquisition, saying it was the victim of a multibillion-dollar fraud at the hands of the British company. Autonomy's former CEO said HP's allegations were false.



Qualcomm CEO Steve Mollenkopf speaks during a news conference at the International Consumer Electronics Show press day on Monday, Jan. 6, 2014, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

HP last year sold Palm's mobile operating system, webOS, to LG Electronics,

which now implants the software in Internet-connected TVs. □

Big raise for JPMorgan Chase chief Dimon

PETER EAVIS

© 2014 New York Times

JPMorgan Chase, after a year marred by scandal and stiff regulatory penalties, has decided to award its chief executive, Jamie Dimon, \$20 million in compensation for 2013, an amount that will further inflame the debate over the accountability of senior bank executives.

The award, announced in a company filing Friday, is 74 percent higher than the \$11.5 million that Dimon earned in 2012. By approving a hefty raise, the bank's board is signaling that it remains firmly behind Dimon after 12 months in which JPMorgan suffered several bruising legal setbacks, including a record \$13 billion settlement with the Justice Department over soured mortgage securities.

In justifying the \$20 million package, which includes \$18.5 million of JPMorgan stock as well as a base salary of \$1.5 million, the board said that JPMorgan had advanced in many ways under Dimon. And to many on Wall Street, Dimon wholly deserves the raise.

"I think he's worth more than that," Warren E. Buffett, the chief executive of Berkshire Hathaway, said. "Overall, I think the shareholders of JPMorgan and the American people

should be happy that Jamie Dimon has been running the bank over this period."

Other senior executives at the bank also got lush

ter a large trading loss in 2012, known as the London Whale debacle, questions arose about the effectiveness of JPMorgan's management.

ed \$1.7 billion from JPMorgan for failing to alert authorities to suspicions relating to Madoff's business. Given the breadth of the legal onslaught, JPMor-



Jamie Dimon, the chief executive of JPMorgan Chase, arrives to testify before the House Financial Services Committee in Washington. JPMorgan's board voted this week to increase Dimon's annual compensation for 2013, following a move last year to dock millions from his paycheck after fallout from the "London Whale" multibillion-dollar trading blunder.

(Daniel Rosenbaum/The New York Times)

compensation packages. But it is unlikely that many JPMorgan employees will be receiving an increase anywhere near the size of Dimon's.

When JPMorgan emerged from the financial crisis of 2008 stronger than most of its peers, Dimon was widely viewed in Washington and on Wall Street as a shrewd manager of risks. But af-

After the trading loss, the bank's legal problems escalated. Along with the \$13 billion settlement with the Justice Department, JPMorgan last year paid out a large sum to settle allegations that some of its traders manipulated energy prices, and, most recently, federal prosecutors investigating the Ponzi scheme of Bernard L. Madoff extract-

gan's critics contend that the board should not have increased Dimon's pay. "If there was ever a time to take a wait-and-see attitude and pay him what they paid last year, this is it," Cornelius K. Hurley, a professor at the Boston University School of Law, said. "This is a thumb in the eye of regulators and a thumb in the eye for the public." □

Sam's Club to cut 2,300 employees

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Wal-Mart Stores Inc. said it's eliminating 2,300 workers at its Sam's Club division as it reduces the ranks of middle managers in a bid to be more nimble.

The layoffs, which cut 2 percent of the membership club's U.S. employee count of about 116,000, mark the largest since 2010 when the Sam's Club unit laid off 10,000 workers as it moved to outsource food demonstrations at its stores. The cuts come as Sam's Club strives to compete better with Costco Wholesale Corp. and online players like Amazon.com's Prime membership service. They also follow layoffs announced by several other major retailers in recent weeks that include Macy's Inc., J.C. Penney and Target Corp.

Bill Durling, a spokesman at Sam's Club, says that a little less than half of the cuts were aimed at salaried assistant managers. The cuts are also eliminating some hourly workers. He says that each of the clubs had roughly the same number of workers regardless of how much revenue each store generated.

"We felt this was the right move to make sure we are positioning ourselves for growing in the future," said Durling in an interview with The Associated Press. "We are trying to rebalance our resources in the field to make sure we are investing in the clubs that have the higher growth potential and balancing resources across the chain."

He added that Sam's Club operates 630 units in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. He noted that the unit will be adding 15 or more clubs in the fiscal year starting on Feb. 1.

For the year ended Jan. 31, 2013, Sam's Club generated revenue of \$56.4 billion, or 12 percent of Wal-Mart's net sales of \$466.1 billion. □

Cold-weather demand pushes natural gas above \$5

Zain Shaik

© 2013 Houston Chronicle

Natural gas prices moved past \$5 per million British thermal units this weekend for the first time in almost four years, as a winter chill drove demand for the fuel. The price of natural gas for next-month delivery last closed above \$5 in June 2010, according to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Natural gas prices have been under \$4 for most of the last two years.

Natural gas for February delivery closed at \$5.18 per million British thermal units in trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The price jump, as much as

20 percent in a week, will offer a boost in revenue for some natural gas producers, but it is not likely to last, said Mark Hanson, an analyst for investment research firm Morningstar. "As easily as it can go up, it can come right back down," he said. "If you see three months worth of this, then maybe it's time to get more excited." But even a short-term price spike will raise home heating bills, according to CenterPoint Energy, which delivers natural gas to 1.2 million Houston-area residents. Natural gas prices dropped to a low of \$1.94 in 2012 amid a surge of production and dwindling demand after a warm

winter. Barring extreme weather conditions, most analysts believe prices will range between \$3.50 and \$4.50 for at least 15 years, because gas production can come online quickly if prices rise - boosting supplies and pushing the price back down. CenterPoint Energy spokeswoman Alicia Dixon said the higher commodity price will raise average February bills by \$2 to \$2.50 over the previous month for comparable gas use. Winter gas bills for Houston residents average \$55 to \$70, Dixon said.

High demand for natural gas has drawn down supplies this winter. Natural gas in underground stor-

age was down 20 percent last week from the same level a year ago, to 2.4 billion cubic feet, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. That's the lowest level at this time of year since 2005, before gas production surged in the shale boom. Prices may stay around \$5 as utilities buy more gas amid high heating and electricity demand that is bringing down supplies, said James Sullivan, senior analyst for Alembic Global Advisors. At that price producers could start drilling and producing in gas-rich areas that have not been profitable at lower prices, he said. □

Reading Real Estate:

Big Is Back - and Don't Forget the Extras!

JIM RENDON

© 2014 New York Times

Katie Sleep and her husband, Jonathan, lived in the same four-bedroom home in a Washington suburb for 23 years. After

stairs become tougher to climb. They upgraded floors, carpeting and molding, added a sunroom and a large deck and super-sized the garage door to fit Sleep's Cadillac Escalade.

of the housing bubble, the ensuing recession and the slow recovery, buyers have not abandoned luxury homes. It turns out that they just took a break. In July 2013, sales of homes

traded company that built the home for the Sleeps, has benefited more than others from that demand, Hunter said, because it caters to the luxury market. In December, the company reported that its revenue was up 65 percent in its fiscal fourth quarter, versus the same quarter the previous year. The average sales price for its homes was up 21 percent for the same period.

Affluent buyers have been flocking to real estate, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association, with applications for home loans of \$625,000 to \$729,000 up 56.7 percent from August 2012 to August 2013. Mortgage applications for more than \$729,000 were up 41 percent.

When Dr. Jonathan Cohen, a physician in Orange County, Calif., began looking for a home with his wife and young son, they were outbid on one after another. Frustrated, he visited a new Toll Brothers development in Yorba Linda, among the country's wealthiest com-

munities, where he later bought a five-bedroom, 4,600-square-foot home with a double-height foyer. Cohen, 35, and his wife, Esther, also a physician, saved for two years to buy it. Aware of how fickle the Southern California market can be, they tried to add options that would raise the home's value. They upgraded the hardwood floors and added solid wood doors and the most expensive exterior the company offered, a manufactured stone. In total, they spent about \$80,000 upgrading the home, which ended up costing about \$1.2 million. It's within a reasonable commute to work and in a good school district, Cohen said. "Before doing this, we were very concerned that the market could drop again," he said. "But I am getting a brand-new home with a 10-year guarantee if anything breaks, built to my specs. It's a decent size, a great piece of property. If I am going to put money into property now, I can't think of a better investment opportunity." □



Katie and Jonathan Sleep stand outside their new home in Leesburg, Va., Jan. 17, 2014. The builder's base price was \$850,000 but the Sleeps chose a further \$650,000 worth of add-ons, ranging from extra windows and a super-sized garage doors to an entire second master bedroom suite, part of a pricing trend in the resurgent luxury homes sector that is currently driving the entire housing market.
(Daniel Rosenbaum/The New York Times)

Sleep decided to retire, they began looking for a new house, and, after viewing a model home in a new development, decided to move to Leesburg, Va., about 40 miles from the city. In having their new home built, they saw an opportunity - not to downsize, but to create a far larger home catering to their every need.

In April 2012, they selected a model costing about \$850,000 from a luxury builder and chose a number of standard options for an additional \$650,000. Sleep, who was in the process of selling the software firm she founded nearly two decades earlier, added a wall of windows to the basement and furnished it with a pool table, a media room, a wet bar, a home office and a suite for their youngest daughter to use when she was home from college.

They added a second master bedroom suite, on the ground level, for use when they are older and

lade. The home's lighting and temperature, as well as media on any of 14 televisions and the sound system, can be controlled remotely.

This six-bedroom house, which has six full and three half bathrooms, measures about 9,000 square feet, including the basement. The Sleeps expect to spend an additional \$250,000 to landscape its three-acre lot.

"We went through some hard times with the software company," Sleep, 57, said. "We feel blessed that we live here now. We pinch ourselves all the time."

After the recession, the market for large, expensive homes like theirs slowed sharply. In July 2008, according to the National Association of Realtors, the number of homes that sold for \$750,000 to \$1 million dropped by 35.5 percent, compared with the previous July. Those that sold for more than \$1 million fell 31.4 percent.

Yet despite the bursting

costing more than \$1 million were up 46.6 percent from the previous July.

When it comes to new homes, bigger is again better. The median size of new homes built for sale peaked in 2007 at 2,295 square feet, then fell to 2,159 two years later, after the housing crisis hit. But the appetite for ever-larger homes has returned: In 2012, new homes reached a new peak of 2,384 square feet and, according to the National Association of Home Builders, some 41 percent of new homes had four or more bedrooms, up from 34 percent in 2009.

"The housing market is being driven by the move-up buyer, the luxury buyer," said Brad Hunter, chief economist and director of consulting at Metrostudy. "And those who have strong incomes, secure jobs, their stock portfolio is doing well - they are able to buy whatever they want. And what they are buying is larger houses."

Toll Brothers, the publicly

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Listing # 977 \$ 425,000

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Koyari 24

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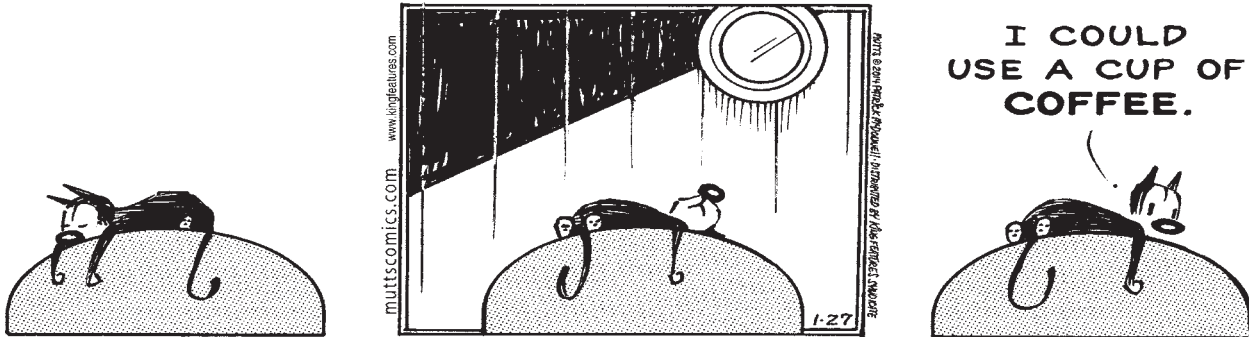
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*Each house will be open for viewing between 3:00pm and 5:00pm.

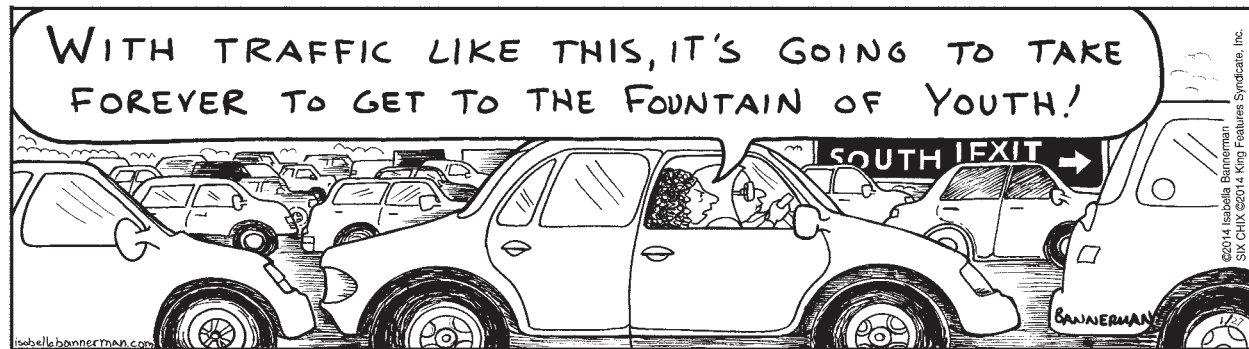
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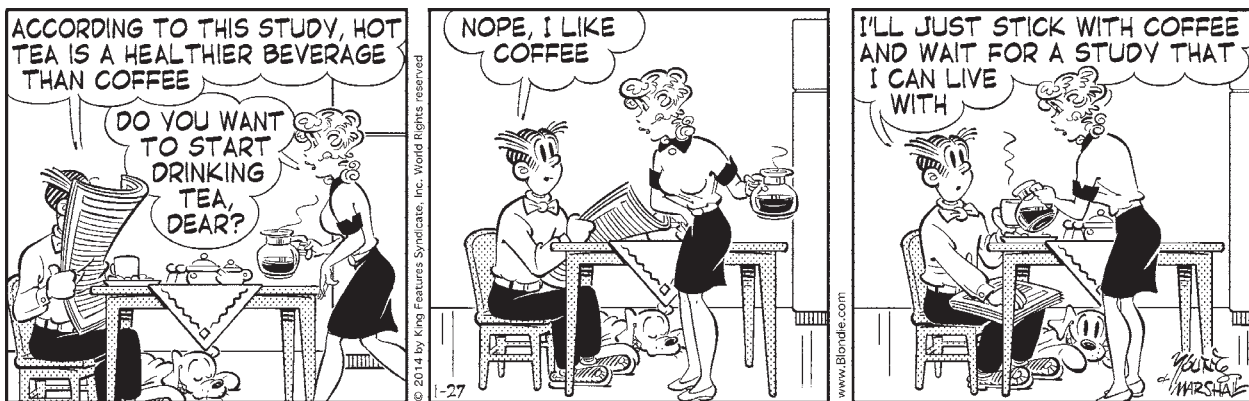
Mutts



6 Chix



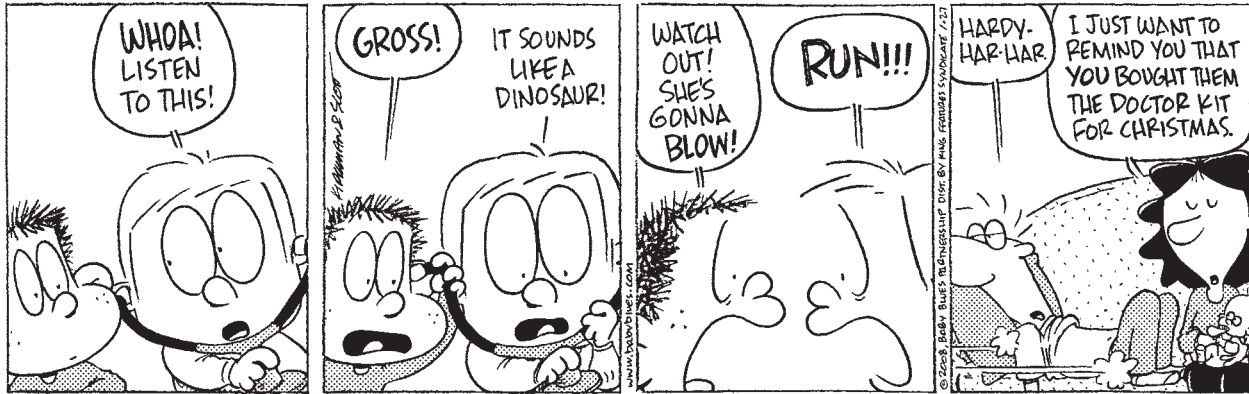
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | 4 | | | | 2 | |
| | 8 | 4 | | | | | 1 | 5 |
| | 5 | | | 1 | 2 | | 4 | |
| 9 | | | 1 | 4 | | 5 | | |
| | | 7 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 9 | | |
| | | 5 | | 9 | 6 | | | 3 |
| | 7 | | 5 | 8 | | | 9 | |
| 4 | | 2 | | | | 8 | 5 | |
| | 3 | | | | 9 | | | 1 |

Difficulty Level ★

1/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

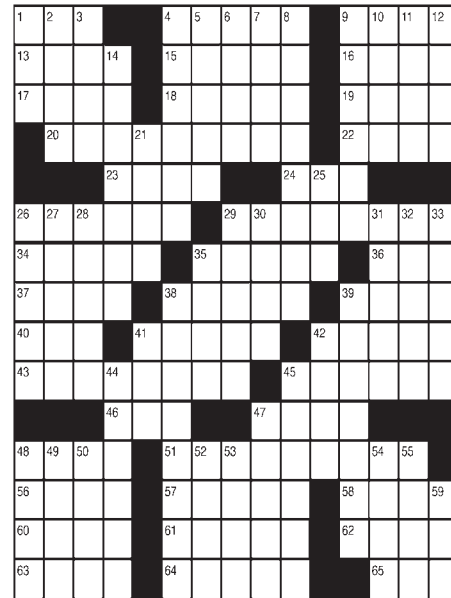
| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 5 |
| 5 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 2 |
| 1 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 4 |
| 7 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 8 |
| 8 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 9 |
| 6 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 2 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| 9 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 3 |
| 3 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 7 |

ACROSS

- Floor cleaning implement
- Furious
- Louie; "King of Salads"
- Fills with wonder
- Three and four
- Hearty
- Ring out
- Train track pieces
- Weapons
- "Beat it!"
- Robin's home
- Facial features
- Brit's raincoat
- Driveway surface
- Duke or baron
- Gave a job to
- Soup server's spoon
- Twenty-; blackjack
- Eras
- Tea variety
- Gigantic
- Prefix for fat or sense
- Classic name for a dog
- Yeared
- Spider or tick
- Measly
- Steiger or Stewart
- Work hard
- Actress Delany
- Humiliate
- up; spent
- Perch
- Bug-killing spray
- Pickle variety
- Fill with joy
- Christmas
- On; offered at a lower price
- Talk out of doing
- Depressed; sad

DOWN

- GPS screen diagram
- Has debts



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/27/14

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

| | | |
|------------|------------|-------|
| MAMA | THESE | OMIT |
| EVIL | YEARN | WACO |
| MOLE | RESIDENCES | |
| OWL | VALE | REEDS |
| EVANS | WAR | |
| ERNEST | KISSES | |
| DENSE | PRIDE | VAN |
| GAIT | PRIME | MAGI |
| EMU | SOAPS | LILAC |
| SMELLY | REFUSE | |
| VIE | HAIFA | |
| SCRAM | PEGS | TAT |
| HEADSTRONG | RICE | |
| ADZE | OUNCE | HONE |
| WEED | EGGED | ONES |

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1/27/14

- Mulled over
- Ms. Clinton
- Greek letter
- Twosome
- Baby's bed
- Redcap
- Single forkful
- Failures
- Huge continent
- Actress Carter
- Burrowing animal
- Canoe or tug
- Paul, before his conversion
- Grain tower
- Morning grass blade moisture

Big Boy train farewell tour begins in CA

POMONA, California (AP) — An enormous steam locomotive that has been entertaining train enthusiasts at a California museum for years began a trek of more than 1,200 miles (1,900 kilometers) on Sunday with the ultimate goal of putting the engine back on the nation's rails. The 600-ton Big Boy locomotive left the Pomona fairgrounds on its way to a Union Pacific rail yard in Colton, about 60 miles (100 kilometers) away, where it will be available for two weekends of public viewing before moving on to Cheyenne, Wyoming, for restoration work. The goal is to eventually get Engine 4014 back on the rails, said Union Pacific spokesman Aaron Hunt. The engine, which weighs 1.2 million pounds (540,000 kilograms) when its fuel car, or tender, is included, was one of 25 massive steam engines that began riding the transcontinental rails in 1941. □

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Oceanside \$17500
Oceanfront \$27500
3 BEDRM \$27000
Plat Plus Holiday 51
OV -\$42k
Plat Plus NY 52 OV- \$49k
GOLD Season
OS \$10k OV \$9500
Oceanfront \$17k
3 BEDRM OV \$17,000

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

Platinum 2B OV \$18k
Oceanfront PLAT \$29k
Platinum 1B OV \$11,500
Gold season 2B OV \$9,000
Oceanfront 2B \$14,500
1B Oceanfront \$8,500

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Week 8 sun-sun
Mini enhanced rooms
1 bedroom first floor unit 1570
weeks 7 & 8 fri-fri
2 bedroom first floor unit 1566
weeks 5 & 6 fri-fri
1 bedroom 5th floor unit 5562
week 17
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wk 3 ocean, pool view Room
1318...20K
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| SERVICE ARUBA | 583-3232 |

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| Avianca | 588-0059 |
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Anti-shark devices popular on Maui after attacks

AUDREY McAVOY

Associated Press

KIHEI, Hawaii (AP) — A surge in shark attacks on Maui over the past year, including two fatal ones, hasn't stopped people from surfing and swimming in the warm ocean waters that surround the Hawaii island.

But it has spurred sales of devices that claim to keep sharks away by emitting an electric pulse.

"They just cannot make these things fast enough," said Hawaiian Island Surf & Sport owner Dennis O'Donnell, who keeps a waiting list for the products and sells out as soon as he's restocked.

Users strap the devices to their ankles, wetsuits or surfboards. Some are about the size of an oversized watch, others the size of a wallet.

They range in price from \$399 to \$649.

Some shark experts say the devices may help in some cases, but it's questionable whether they'll repel large



A surfer models a shark deterrent device, the Electronic Shark Defense System, in Honolulu on Dec. 17, 2013.

Associated Press

sharks.

With or without the devices, people need to remember they are taking a risk when they go into waters inhabited by large predators like sharks, said George Burgess, the director of the Florida Program for Shark Research.

"It's not equal to going to the YMCA pool or the pool at the hotel," Burgess said.

The sales spike comes as there have been eight shark attacks in Maui waters last year. Statewide, there were 14 attacks in 2013. There were 11 attacks in Hawaii in 2012 and three the year before.

In August, a German tourist died a week after a shark bit off her arm. In December, a man fishing on his kayak died after a shark bit

his foot that was dangling in the water.

The last time anybody was killed by a shark in Hawaii waters was in 2004.

Sterling Kaya, owner of the Honolulu fishing supply store Hana Pa'a Fishing Co., said he used a device once while using a spear to fish in the Marshall Islands. Without it, sharks ate the catch he and his fellow fishermen strung to a float while they fished, Kaya said. But the sharks stayed away when they attached the device to their catch.

Carl Meyer, a shark researcher at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, said the devices may reduce the risk of a shark bite but won't eliminate it, cautioning that no independent, peer-reviewed studies have been conducted on their effectiveness.

Burgess said the only people who would need one of the devices are those whose jobs put them regularly in direct contact with sharks. People who dive for abalone or sponges in

places where sharks are very common might fall into this category, he said. Spearfishermen may also benefit as they are diving with bloody fish that can attract sharks. But there's still a question of whether the electrical field released by the device will deter the fish they're trying to spear, Burgess said.

Burgess is also skeptical whether the devices will effectively deter large sharks that tend to be the types involved in fatal attacks on humans — like tiger, white or bull sharks.

Even so, he noted the odds of getting bitten by a shark are tiny. People are much more likely to drown or have a heart attack in the water than be attacked by a shark, he said.

Dan Peters, who visited Maui from Kirbyville, Texas, said hearing about the shark attacks concerned him, but it didn't stop him from going in the ocean.

"I know they're not out there specifically looking for me," he said. □

New river dolphin species found in Brazil

STAN LEHMAN

Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Scientists have made the first discovery in 100 years of a new river dolphin species in the waters of the Araguaia river in Brazil's vast Amazon rainforest.

The discovery of the "Inia araguaiaensis" was officially announced earlier this week in a study posted online by the Plos One scientific journal.

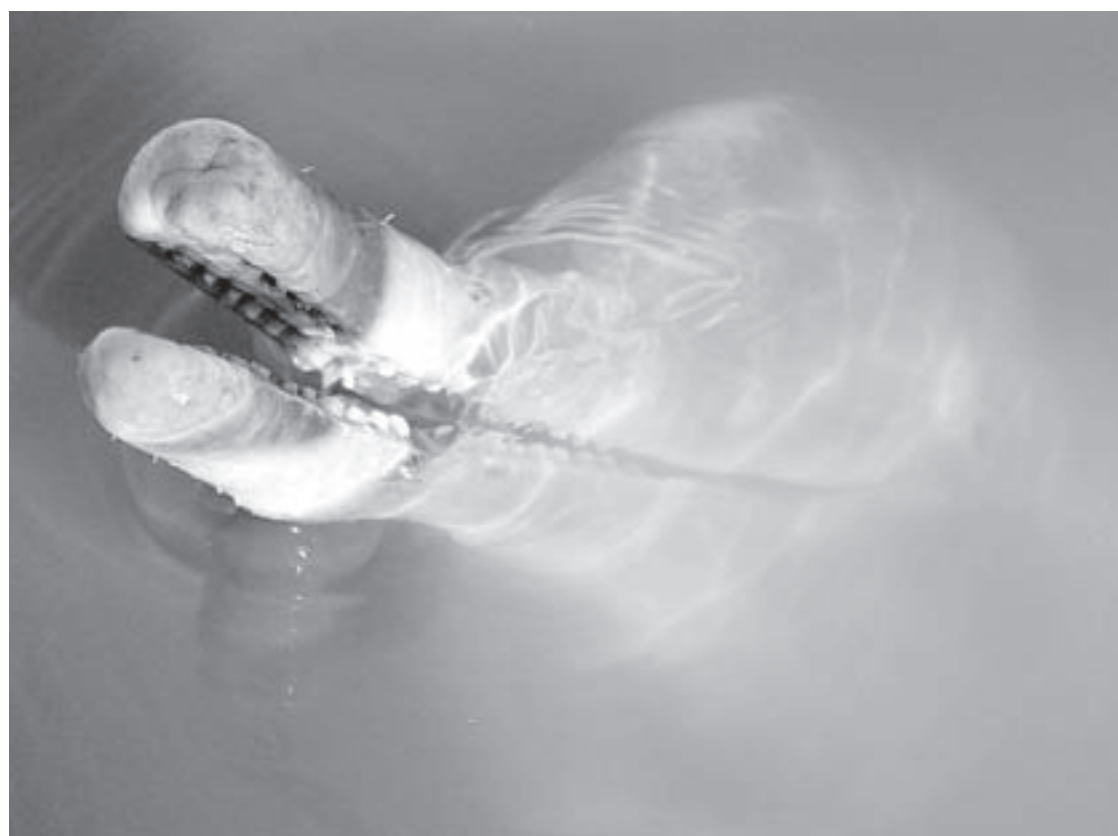
The study's lead author, biologist Tomas Hrbek, of the Federal University of Ama-

zonas in the city of Manaus, said the new species is the third ever found in the Amazon region.

"It was an unexpected discovery that shows just how incipient our knowledge is of the region's biodiversity," Hrbek said by telephone.

"River dolphins are among the rarest and most endangered of all vertebrates, so discovering a new species is something that is very rare and exciting."

He said "people always saw them in the river but no



This undated 2014 photo released by the Federal University of Amazonas shows an Inia araguaiaensis dolphin in the Araguaia River in Amazonas state, Brazil.

Associated Press

one ever took a close up look at them."

Hrbek added that scientists concluded the large dolphin was a new species by analyzing and comparing DNA samples of several

types of dolphins from the Amazon and Araguaia river basins.

"The Araguaia dolphin is very similar to its Amazon river cousin although some-

what smaller and with fewer teeth," he said. He added that there were about 1,000 "Inia araguaiaensis" dolphins living in the 2,627 kilometer-long (1,630 miles) river. □

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'Ride Along' runs over 'I, Frankenstein'

JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Kevin Hart comedy "Ride Along" continued to speed through a typically quiet box-office frame, while the monster thriller "I, Frankenstein" couldn't be roused from the dead.

Universal's buddy cop comedy "Ride Along," co-starring Ice Cube, cruised to the top of the box office again, taking in \$21.2 million in its second weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. The film set a January debut record, with \$48.6 million over the three-day holiday weekend.

For the second weekend in a row, Universal claimed no. 1 and no. 2 at the box office, with the Afghanistan war film "Lone Survivor" earning \$12.6 million in its fifth week. With a cumulative total of \$93.6 million, the relatively inexpensive "Lone Survivor," starring Mark Wahlberg, will soon cross the \$100 million mark. But "I, Frankenstein" had a sizable budget estimated at \$65 million, yet opened with just \$8.3 million. Starring a beefed-up Arron Eckhart as Mary Shelley's famous monster in a modern-day setting, the 3-D film wasn't screened for critics and came into the weekend

with little buzz. Lakeshore Entertainment financed the film, which was distributed by Lionsgate.

Two family films trailed "Ride Along" and "Lone Survivor." The animated squirrel comedy "The Nut Job" made \$12.3 million in its second week for Open Road Films. Disney's juggernaut "Frozen" added \$9 million for a 10-week domestic total of \$347.8 million.

Several Oscar candidates sought to capitalize on their recent best-picture nominations. Expanding by a few hundred theaters were "Dallas Buyers Club" (\$2 million, \$20.4 million total) "12 Years a Slave," (\$2 million, \$45.5 million total) "Gravity" (\$2 million, \$261.2 million total), "Philomena,"



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Ice Cube, left, and Kevin Hart in a scene from "Ride Along."

Associated Press

(\$1 million, \$25.8 million total) and "Nebraska" (\$1.4 million, \$11.6 million total). Also adding theaters was "August: Osage County," which earned \$5 million, bringing its cumulative haul to \$26.5 million.

Hollywood will largely cede next weekend to the Super Bowl, except for new releases "Labor Day," starring Kate Winslet and Josh Brolin, and "That Awkward Moment," with Zac Efron and Michael B. Jordan. □

History may tie NYC official to British actor



This photo provided by PBS shows Louise Brealey, left, as Molly Hooper and Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock Holmes, in a scene from Season 3, "The Empty Hearse" episode of Masterpiece's "Sherlock," which aired on Jan. 19, 2014, on PBS.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — They share a last name, and perhaps a historical tie to a tragic past. Stacey Cumberbatch is New York City's new commissioner of administrative services.

Benedict Cumberbatch is the British actor known for playing Sherlock Holmes in a popular BBC series, and for his turn as a plantation owner in the Oscar-nominated film, "12 Years a Slave."

Stacey Cumberbatch tells The New York Times that her ancestors were slaves in Barbados, and probably took their distinctive last name from their white owner.

That owner may have been Benedict Cumberbatch's fifth great-grandfather.

The actor has talked in interviews about his paternal ancestor's ownership of a plantation in Barbados in the 18th Century. □



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Dempsey confirms extension with 'Grey's Anatomy'



Driver Patrick Dempsey laughs with other drivers in the Fanzone area during an autograph session prior to the start of the IMSA Series Rolex 24 hour auto race at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla., Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014.

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida (AP) — Patrick Dempsey's acting and racing careers will be intermingled for the foreseeable future.

Dempsey, a driver/owner racing in the Rolex 24 at Daytona endurance event

this weekend, confirmed Saturday night that he has signed a two-year contract extension to continue with the popular television series "Grey's Anatomy." The show has not officially been picked up beyond its 10th season, but Dempsey's deal provides a strong indication that it will be back. Dempsey also plans to run a full season in the United SportsCar Championship, racing in the fourth-tier GTD class.

Dempsey said the acting gig has been a huge help to his other full-time job. Dempsey and co-driver Andrew Davis plan to race in all 13 events.

"'Grey's' does a remarkable job scheduling around these races now, and I wouldn't be able to do it without them," Dempsey said.

"The fact that they continue to let me race is remarkable in itself, so I am grateful for that and grateful to have employment that is

known around the world. It gives me a platform to come and do this type of thing, and it helps the sponsors.

"I'm lucky to have the gig." When the 48-year-old Dempsey was asked whether he had any thoughts about giving up "Grey's" for racing, he said, "When I grow up, I want to race full time."

Dempsey has raced professionally for nearly a decade. He is coming off his most successful season, which included a third-place finish at Circuit of The Americas and second-place finishes at Laguna Seca and Petit at Le Mans. He also was fourth at the 24 Hours of Le Mans, teaming with Joe Foster and Patrick Long.

In 2012, Dempsey and Foster co-drove to a pair of top-three podium finishes in the ALMS series, which merged with Grand-AM to become United SportsCar in 2014. □



Justin Bieber, second right, and Chantel Jeffries, far left, walk with unidentified people on a beach in Punta Chame, Panama, Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014.

Associated Press

Bieber relaxing in Panama after Florida scrape

KATHIA MARTINEZ Associated Press

PANAMA CITY (AP) — Pop star Justin Bieber is relaxing at the beach in Panama after being charged in Florida with driving under the influence. Panamanian radio and television host Eddy Vasquez was filming a show at the Pacific Coast resort in Punta Chame when he spotted Bieber and his entourage walking on the beach. He and his crew took pictures of the singer and his companions, who got on personal watercraft and traveled to a nearby island. Police in Miami Beach said they arrested Bieber smelling of alcohol after officers saw him drag-racing before dawn Thursday, with his yellow Lamborghini traveling at nearly twice the speed limit. □

Johansson addresses criticism over SodaStream deal

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Scarlett Johansson has responded to criticism over her new ad campaign for an Israeli company that operates in the West Bank, but she's not pulling out of the endorsement deal.

The 29-year-old actress said in a statement released Friday to The Huffington Post that she "never intended on being the face of any social or political movement, distinction, separation or stance" as part of her affiliation with SodaStream International Ltd.

The Israeli drink maker recently signed the "Her" and "The Avengers" actress as its first "global brand ambassador." She is to appear in a television ad during the Super Bowl on Feb. 2.

SodaStream has come under fire from pro-Palestinian activists for maintaining a large factory in an Israeli settlement in the



In this Nov. 10, 2013 file photo, actress Scarlett Johansson arrives for the screening of the film 'Her' at the 8th edition of the Rome International Film Festival in Rome.

Associated Press

West Bank, a territory captured by Israel in 1967 and

claimed by the Palestinians.

Oxfam International took issue with Johansson this

week because the humanitarian group opposes "all trade" from Israeli settlements, saying they are illegal and deny Palestinian rights.

Johansson has served as a global ambassador for Oxfam since 2005, raising funds and promoting awareness about global poverty.

"I remain a supporter of economic cooperation and social interaction between a democratic Israel and Palestine," said Johansson. "SodaStream is a company that is not only committed to the environment but to building a bridge to peace between Israel and Palestine, supporting neighbors working alongside each other, receiving equal pay, equal benefits and equal rights." Johansson added that she stands behind the SodaStream product and is proud of her work with Oxfam. □



WikiLeaks, Drought And Syria

THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
© 2014 New York Times

In the 1970s, I got both my bachelor's and master's degrees in modern Middle East studies, and I can assure you that at no time did environmental or climate issues appear anywhere in the syllabi of my courses. Today, you can't understand the Arab awakenings - or their solutions - without considering climate, environment and population stresses. I've been reporting on the connection between the Syrian drought and the uprising there for a Showtime documentary that will air in April, but recently our researchers came across a WikiLeaks cable that brilliantly foreshadowed how environmental stresses would fuel the uprising. Sent on Nov. 8, 2008, from the U.S. Embassy in Damascus to the State Department, the cable details how, in light of what was a devastating Syrian drought - it lasted from 2006-10



- Syria's U.N. food and agriculture representative, Abdullah bin Yehia, was seeking drought assistance from the U.N. and wanted the U.S. to contribute. Here are some key lines:
- "The U.N. Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs launched an appeal on September 29 requesting roughly \$20.23 million to assist an estimated one million people impacted by what the U.N. describes as the country's worst drought in four decades."
- "Yehia proposes to use money from the appeal to provide seed and technical assistance to 15,000 small-holding farmers in northeast Syria in an effort to preserve the social and eco-

nom fabric of this rural, agricultural community. If UNFAO efforts fail, Yehia predicts mass migration from the northeast, which could act as a multiplier on social and economic pressures already at play and undermine stability."

- "Yehia does not believe that the (government of Bashar al-Assad) will allow any Syrian citizen to starve. ... However, Yehia told us that the Syrian minister of agriculture ... stated publicly that economic and social fallout from the drought was 'beyond our capacity as a country to deal with.' What the U.N. is trying to combat through this appeal, Yehia says, is the potential for 'social destruction' that would accompany erosion of the agricultural industry in rural Syria. This social destruction would lead to political instability."

- "Without direct assistance, Yehia predicts that most of these 15,000 small-holding farmers would be forced to depart Al Hasakah province to seek work in larger cities in western Syria. Approximately 100,000 dependents - women, children and the elderly or infirm - would be left behind to live in poverty, he said. Children would be likely to be pulled from school, he warned, in order to seek a source of income for families left behind. In addition, the migration of 15,000 unskilled laborers would add to the social and economic pressures presently at play in major Syrian cities. A system already burdened by a large Iraqi refugee population may not be able to absorb another influx of displaced persons, Yehia explained, particularly at this time of rising costs, growing dissatisfaction of the middle class, and a perceived weakening of the social fabric and security structures that Syrians have come to expect and - in some cases - rely on."

Yehia was prophetic. By 2010, roughly 1 million Syrian farmers, herders and their families were forced off the land into already overpopulated and under-

served cities. These climate refugees were crowded together with 1 million Iraqi war refugees. The Assad regime failed to effectively help any of them, so when the Arab awakenings erupted in Tunisia and Egypt, Syrian democrats followed suit and quickly found many willing recruits from all those dislocated by the drought.

But also consider this: Last May 9, The Times of Israel quoted Israeli geographer Arnon Soffer as observing that in the past 60 years, the population in the Middle East has twice doubled. "There is no example of this anywhere else on earth."

And this: Last March, the International Journal of Climatology published a study, "Changes in extreme temperature and precipitation in the Arab region," that found "consistent warming trends since the middle of the 20th century across the region," manifested in "increasing frequencies of warm nights, fewer cool days and cool nights."

And then consider this: Syria's government couldn't respond to a prolonged drought when there was a Syrian government. So imagine what could happen if Syria is faced by another drought after much of its infrastructure has been ravaged by civil war.

And, finally, consider this: "In the future, who will help a country like Syria when it gets devastated by its next drought if we are in a world where everyone is dealing with something like a Superstorm Sandy," which alone cost the U.S. \$60 billion to clean up? asks Joe Romm, founder of ClimateProgress.org. So to Iran and Saudi Arabia, who are funding the proxy war in Syria between Sunnis and Shites/Alawites, all I can say is that you're fighting for control of a potential human/ecological disaster zone. You need to be working together to rebuild Syria's resiliency, and its commons, not destroying it. I know that in saying this I am shouting into a dust storm. But there is nothing else worth saying. □

The Obama-Bush Nexus



FRANK BRUNI
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Our current president and his predecessor in the Oval Office are typically cast as opposites, antonyms, not just far apart on an ideological spectrum but cats of wholly different stripes.

Barack Obama: lyrical, professorial. George Bush: allergic to any glimmer of intellectualism. Obama: head. Bush: gut. Obama: city. Bush: country. But as I read David Remnick's widely discussed profile of Obama in this week's New Yorker, I was struck by something the two men have in common, an overlooked overlap that perhaps suggests what it now takes to get to the White House and why we wind up with the leaders we do. I'm talking about their talent for separation, their tendency to retreat, a fundamental detachment and insularity that seem, in one sense, antithetical to politics but may in fact be an answer to surviving the frenzy that it's become.

This quality plays out differently in each man, or at least in his affect. Obama can project an icy hauteur, while Bush often communicated a lazy disengagement. And Bush's surface gregariousness - the chuckling, the nicknames, the vestigial brio of the prep school cheerleader and college fraternity president that he once was - masked his essential remove.

But like Obama, he was constantly pulling back, less fond of crowds than of solitude, less inclined to meet new people than to huddle with a tight circle of trusted intimates. He's a homebody who grew homesick on the campaign trail and couldn't hide it, circling back as often as possible to his own bed, to familiar turf. A quote from an unnamed acquaintance of his in a 2012 story in New York magazine by Joe Hagan went too far but hinted at something real.

"He's become increasingly agoraphobic," the acquaintance said, adding that Bush "doesn't like people, he never did, he doesn't now."

Hagan used this comment as a buildup to the revelation that Bush had acquired an asocial avocation: He was spending hours alone at canvases, painting. The hobby was new, but some underlying affinity for it must have always been there. My colleague Peter Baker, author of "Days of Fire: Bush and Cheney in the White House," re-

called a particular aspect of the two-hour bike rides Bush took during his years in office.

"He would tell people that he was happy to have them bike along with him but that he didn't want anyone biking in front of him because he wanted the illusion of being alone," Baker told me.

Remnick writes that during the 2008 presidential campaign, Obama "took a vow of 'no new friends.'" When he now goes to fundraisers, "he would rather eat privately with a couple of aides before going out to perform." He watches sports in privacy; tries not to miss his nightly dinner with Michelle and the girls; shoots hoops with an established crew; golfs with the usual suspects. Remnick mentions that since 2009, one aide has golfed with Obama more than 100 times, while John Boehner has done so just once.

Commentators and even members of Congress upbraid Obama for this routinely. And rightly. One senator, telling me about the outsize elation of a fellow lawmaker who had finally been permitted to putt with the leader of the free world, theorized that Obama doesn't fully appreciate the dazzle of presidential proximity and the favor that it can win him.

Maybe. Or maybe he just can't give up that much of himself and his down time - as a matter of pacing, as a matter of sanity. Maybe the surest way for him to keep his eye on the ball and his spirits out of the sand traps is to compartmentalize the glad-handing, cordon off the hubbub. Maybe insufficient outreach is inextricable from perseverance. For Obama and Bush, poise and detachment go hand in hand. Their campaigns succeeded in large measure because of steadiness - the trumpeted "message discipline" of the Bush troops, the famed "no drama" of Obama's operation - and this approach required candidates who could tune out and float above the ever-changing highs, lows, mock outrages and invented scandals of the modern news cycle, with its amplified noise, its extra distractions, its exhausting velocity. This required candidates good at building walls around themselves, and at constructing and sticking to comfort zones in which they could recharge.

"Stylistically, the two presidents had much more in common than I expected," writes Robert Gates, the former defense secretary, in his new memoir, "Duty." He reports that neither had much zest for wooing Congress or cultivated all that many friends. "Both presidents, in short, seemed to me to be very aloof." That description applied to many previous presidents, too. But the snugness of its fit for Obama and Bush makes me wonder if, when we talk about how isolating the presidency is, we neglect to consider how deft at isolation some of the people who attain it already are - and, going forward, may have to be. □

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as a series of small street festivals. The Tivoli Club, Aruba's oldest private social club, was the first to have a pre-Lenten celebration in Oranjestad in February 1944. The Allied victory of World War II was commemorated by an Aruba Festival - a large parade in San Nicolas comprised largely of Caribbean-English immigrants who came to Aruba to work at the Lago Oil Refinery. The first steel and brass bands debuted a few years later and small parades sprouted here and there. Tonight at 8PM, Palm Beach Plaza Mall will have a great Carnival Show where you can experience



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